Bengaluru Sunday, February 1, 2026 Pages 26 Vol 79 No 32 ₹8

DH on Sunday

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Rybakina wins battle of nerves

Kazakh beats Sabalenka to win maiden Aus Open title

P11

Big Picture

How long is long enough?

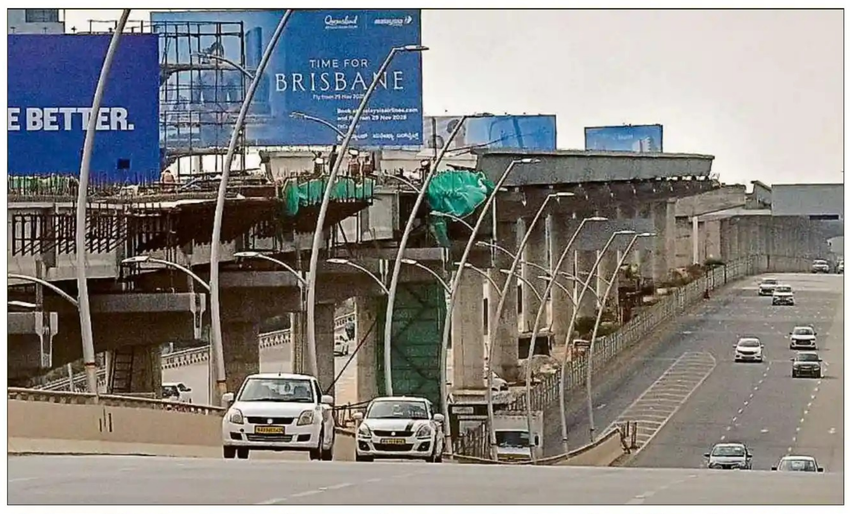
India's new longevity elite is racing to stretch time. However, is not the real challenge learning to live well with the years we have?

Page14

From runway to road: Missing links in airport connectivity

World-class terminals are only half the journey; inadequate public transport and expensive taxis make airport commutes a daily ordeal

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS



A view of the airport metro line near Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru.
DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), known for its striking architecture and set amid Devanahalli, was envisioned as Bengaluru's grand gateway to the world. Instead, for many passengers, the journey begins, or ends, in frustration long before they reach the terminal.

Located nearly 40 kilometres from the city centre, the airport's distance has turned ground travel into a daily ordeal. With limited public transport options, commuters are largely dependent on Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporations's (BMTC) Vayu Vajra buses or expensive cabs. While the Vayu Vajra is reliable, its frequency and coverage fall short for a city as vast as Bengaluru. Currently, the buses cater to an average of 13,000-14,000 passengers per month. For everyone else, hailing a taxi often means bracing for steep fares, prolonged negotiations, or both. Bengaluru's struggle is not unique. Across India, major airports grapple with similar last-mile connectivity challenges.

Chennai International Airport, despite its proximity to the city, suffers from poor integration between metro, suburban rail and road transport, forcing passengers to rely heavily on cabs.

INSIGHT

Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, like Bengaluru's, is located far from the urban core, making costly taxi rides almost unavoidable for late-night or early-morning travellers. While a 30 km ride from the airport is supposed to cost around Rs 700, taxi drivers at the airport often demand fares exceeding Rs 1,000.

As India's aviation sector grows, these airports highlight a persistent problem: world-class terminals paired with inadequate, and often exhausting, access for passengers.

In Bengaluru, recent changes in pick-up rules, meant to decongest the airport, have only added to the chaos—leaving passengers confused and taxi unions angry, and sparking repeated standoffs at the terminal.

Under the revised system, app-based cabs are required to pick up passengers from designated zones away from the arrival gates. While the change has worked fairly well at Terminal 2 (T2), Terminal 1 (T1) has emerged as the problem area.

At T1, all commercial vehicles outside the airport's authorised network were required to pick up passengers from Parking Zones 3 and 4, adding 15 to 20 minutes to the walk from the arrivals gate.

While the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the airport operating body, made efforts to launch feeder buses and buggies, lack of awareness about the sudden change left hundreds of passengers confused and frustrated.

▸ Airport connectivity, Page 2

Governance crippled: India's IAS problem

Shortages and churn threaten the civil services' role in India's development

KANADPRIYA BASU & SUBHO MAJUMDAR

India faces not one but two administrative crises, and their combined effect is far greater than the sum of their parts. As of January 2024, nearly 1,300 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) positions remain vacant out of an authorised strength of 6,877, a 19% shortfall that has persisted for over a decade. Even officers, who are in post, face chronic instability. Last year, 62 officers were transferred in a single month in Rajasthan. In Madhya Pradesh, around 325 transfers occurred over 20 months in 2024 and 2025, particularly in senior secretariat positions. The transfer carousel continues to spin into 2026. The year opened with sweeping bureaucratic reshuffles at both the central and state levels.

The SUNDAY STORY

At the close of 2025, the Appointments Committee cleared more than 40 senior IAS transfers across central ministries. Days later, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) transferred 49 AGMUT cadre (covering Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and union territories) officers, one of the most extensive reshuffles affecting Delhi, Puducherry, Goa and the North-East.

State governments followed suit: Madhya Pradesh moved 26 IAS officers on January 18, Punjab transferred 20 IAS officers just last week, while late 2025 saw major reshuffles in Uttar Pradesh (46 officers), Rajasthan (48 officers), Bihar (36 officers), Gujarat (26 officers) and Haryana (20 officers).

There may be plausible reasons for such reshuffling. However, when combined with the constrained capacity of the IAS cadre, frequent mass transfers create a vicious cycle that undermines our nation's development capacity. Vacancies compel remaining officers to shoulder multiple responsibilities, intensifying pressure for further transfers, whether to "reward" overburdened loyalists or to redistribute unmanageable workloads.

▸ IAS vacancies, Page 2

Travel
Page16

Turkish delight

Istanbul straddles Europe and Asia and is an eclectic mix of mosques, palaces, and bazaars

Books
Page15

Kiran Desai on the 'AI parasite'

In an exclusive interview, the Booker-winning author spoke about dealing with the supersonic pace of our world

Food & Drink
Page17

Sourdough servings

Restaurants are seeing an uptick in demand for sourdough pizzas with bold toppings

STAR ALLIANCE
AIR INDIA
Plan your vacation now!
NAMASTE WORLD SALE
UP TO 20% OFF*
AVAIL ONE FREE DATE CHANGE^
SALE ENDS 5TH FEB '26
SOUTHEAST ASIA ₹16,000
FAR EAST ₹34,000
AUSTRALIA ₹60,520
EUROPE ₹46,000
GULF ₹23,629
USA & CANADA ₹60,090
INDIA ₹1,499
SCAN & BOOK on airindia.com with ZERO CONVENIENCE FEE
Or contact your travel agent
Travel period: 11th Feb 2026 to 31st Dec 2026
*T&Cs apply. Fares mentioned are starting international return & domestic one-way fares, all-inclusive.
^Valid on travel from 1st April 2026 onwards. Changes permitted up to 72 hours before departure. Fare difference applies.

Multimodal integration is key

Airport connectivity from Page 1

Furious at not being included in the decision-making process, taxi unions protested the new rules, while passengers launched an online petition demanding their rollback. The changes also drew the ire of several political leaders including Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, who criticised BIAL for introducing rules without considering the needs of senior citizens and differently-abled persons.

However, BIAL has stood by its decision, claiming that the new rules will help decongest the airport and improve passenger safety. Earlier, following multiple complaints about taxi driver harassment, BIAL had tried to implement similar rules in 2024. But the move received widespread criticism, forcing the operational body to roll the rules back, only to reintroduce a mildly revised version in late 2025.

After much resistance from both taxi drivers and passengers, BIAL in collaboration with the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation is now working on a slot-based system which would allow yellow-board vehicles to pick passengers from the kerbside. The system is currently being operated on a trial basis at T1. In the interim, the authorities have also launched a 'Premium Pickup Zone', which allows taxis to pick up passengers from a particular lane near the arrivals gate for Rs 275 for a 10-minute slot and Rs 150 for every additional five minutes.

Despite these efforts, confusion over cab pickups continues to prevail among both domestic and international flyers. "After taking multiple flights, I just wanted to get into a cab and get home. But when I landed in Bengaluru in January, after about 10 months, everything had changed. The driver I always book for pickups could not figure out the new system. We wasted about 30 minutes trying to find each other. The airport staff was of no help," said Ruchitha Jain, a Koramangala resident.

A similar situation persists in Chennai. The Airports Authority of India (AAI), which manages both the international and domestic airports, had previously allowed passenger cars to pick up travellers directly at the arrivals area. But in August 2025, AAI shifted the pick-up point to the multi-level car parking (MLCP) facility to reduce congestion. Passengers are now required to either walk to the MLCP or take a buggy.

Passengers say that reaching the MLCP from the terminal and then continuing to their destinations can sometimes take longer than the actual flight for short-distance journeys. For instance, Sanjeevi, 39, took about 40 minutes to fly from Coimbatore to Chennai but it took about an hour for him to reach the MLCP to board a cab from the time he deboarded the flight.

"I had to walk from the arrival terminal to the MLCP, which took about 15 minutes. Then I waited for around ten minutes for the lift because of a huge queue. When I reached the parking lot, it took me another 10 minutes to find my cab and board it. It was such a harrowing experience. If only cabs are allowed to pick up passengers at the terminal," he told *DH*.

While the Chennai Airport authorities say about 20 battery-operated buggies are available for passenger use, fliers say they are insufficient. Senthil, 47, said he waited 30 minutes for a buggy since he had luggage, only to find that the vehicles didn't have enough space to accommodate luggage.

Although airport officials have instructed cabs to pick up senior citizens, pregnant women and differently-abled passengers at the arrivals terminal, many drivers avoid doing so, fearing penalties imposed by contractors.

Cab touting

At the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad, 'cab touting' remains a major menace, inconveniencing passengers through overcharging and harassment by unauthorised taxi drivers.

Travellers often report being tricked into paying high fares, taking longer routes and enduring stressful experiences, especially at night. A persistent issue is the so-called "local mafia" blocking app-based cabs like Ola and Uber from pickup zones. These touts intimidate drivers and mislead passengers about availability, often cramming multiple people into vehicles at exorbitant rates. "Getting Ola or Uber at Hyderabad Airport is a nightmare at night," one passenger lamented on social media recently.

Airport spokespersons insist they ensure 24/7 access to authorised options. To combat touting, authorities have deployed over 31 anti-touting security personnel at key landside locations. In collaboration with Telangana Police, a special patrol team targets unauthorised operators. In 2024 alone, 446 touting cases were reported to RGIA Police and interception teams.

Traffic chaos at entry and exit points adds to the passenger frustration. "Every five minutes, quarrels erupt at both entry and exit points tarnishing the airport's image. Utter chaos reigns; someone from GMR, the airport operator, must manage it. One says it's a FASTag lane, another disagrees," a passenger complained in a recent video. While the airport authorities and the police have made efforts to address the cab issues over the years, similar problems pop up from time to time.

Fare scams

At the same time, 2025 saw several cab scams which left passengers in precarious situations.

Recently in Mumbai, a taxi driver cheated an American woman by charging her Rs 18,000 for a cab ride of barely 400 metres near the airport, taking a deliberately roundabout route. The incident came to light after the woman shared her experience on social media, prompting swift police action.

Another common scam at the airport in Bengaluru, which emerged early last year, involved drivers using fake apps or receipts to charge inflated fares.

In June, an elderly woman was charged Rs 2,308 for a 41 km ride to JP Nagar in Bengaluru. Originally supposed to cost between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,400, the driver showed a fake receipt on his phone with the inflated amount. Over the years, multiple passengers have reported falling prey to similar scams. Most commonly, taxi drivers attempt to charge extra by claiming tolls were not included in the final bill.

"The biggest scam is the convenient placement of premium options like Uber Black right by the arrivals gate. Unassuming passengers walk right into the trap. To make matters worse, cabs which have airport tie-ups and dedicated kiosks on the ground end up charging anywhere between Rs 500 and Rs 1,500 more than the cabs without such ties," a furious passenger told *DH*. Since the re-jigging of the pickup zones at the airport in December 2025, several passengers have reported similar issues. However, BIAL is yet to respond to these concerns.

Public transport

Until now, public transport at KIA has been sparse, with the airport railway station lying largely deserted due to poor frequency of trains and often abandoned ticketing booths.

While the station was never well-connected and easily accessible since its inauguration in 2021, the situation has worsened since January 2025, according to contract workers and labourers at KIA, who rely on its service on a daily basis. With tickets priced between Rs 10 and Rs 30, the trains are the cheapest mode of transport available at the airport.

The only other option is the BMTC's Vayu Vajra which covers 22 routes with 156 buses and 1,061 trips everyday. BMTC plans to add 20 to 25 more buses this year across various routes.

However, despite being one of the cheaper transport options, passengers often complained that the bus travel from the Bengaluru airport was more expensive compared to other major Indian airports.

"The Vayu Vajra doesn't operate properly during the late hours. The government should have planned better public transport when they planned to build an airport this far from the city," said Nandini, 29, a traveller.

BIAL also recently faced criticism for reducing the bus bays for BMTC on T1. While the justification remains that a larger bus stand has been provided at T2, BMTC has shared that about 80% of its airport passengers comes from T1's domestic terminal. With the government now stepping in, the two bodies are in talks to find a solution.

Relief, however, is on the horizon. The Namma Metro's Blue Line, which will connect the airport to the city via Hebbal and KR Puram, is expected to significantly cut travel time and provide a reliable alternative to road transport. It is scheduled to be completed by 2027. Additionally, the K-Ride suburban rail project plans to link the airport with key nodes such as Yelahanka and the city centre, promising faster and cheaper access.

"Bengaluru had a railway line well before the airport was built there and yet missed the suburban train system connectivity opportunity," said Srinivas Alavilli, a fellow at WRI India, a research organisation.

"Recent announcements from K-RIDE (Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd) give hope that railway connectivity will become a reality soon. The Blue Line metro is likely to become operational within the next two years but we are yet to see plans like the Delhi Airport Express or how the metro and terminal will be integrated as in the case of Chennai. For a mega city like Bengaluru, with one of India's busiest airports, we need all modes of public transport to ensure seamless connectivity and target at least 50% of all airport trips to happen on bus, metro or train," he added.

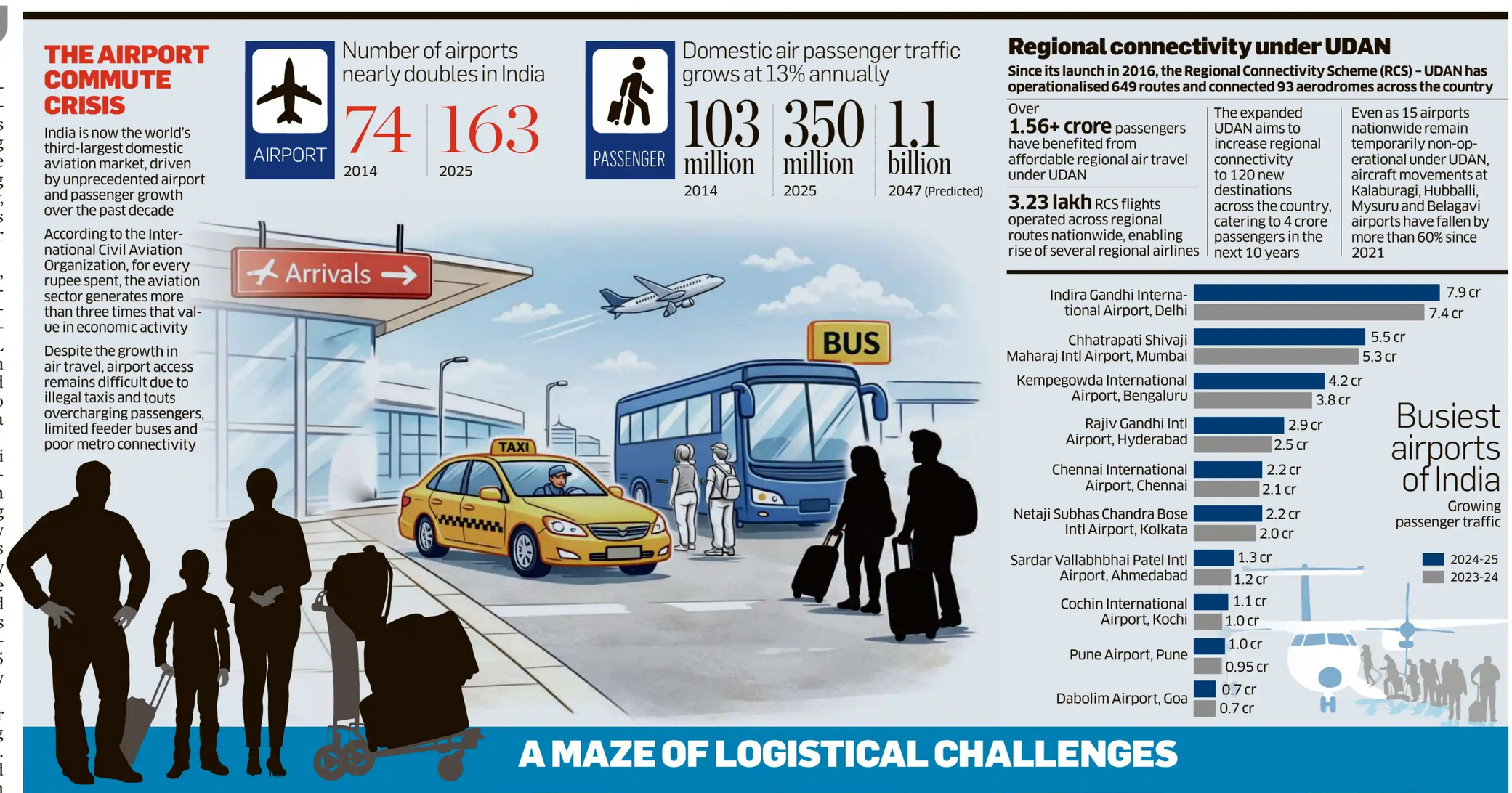
The Mumbai and Navi Mumbai airports are also soon set to be connected by a 35 metre metro line, including a 9 km underground stretch with 20 stations.

A seamless transfer model, supported by multimodal transport — road, metro, suburban rail and water links — will eventually connect the two airports, ensuring that India's busiest business city operates with infrastructure on par with premier world capitals.

The twin-airport strategy mirrors global precedents: distributing traffic between two facilities to decongest bottlenecks, derisk operations and provide passengers with greater airline and route choices.

The ongoing projects in metro, suburban rail and multimodal integration offer hope, signalling that with coordinated planning and effective execution, India's airports can finally match the efficiency and convenience of the world's best.

(With inputs from ETB Sivapriyan in Chennai, Mrityunjay Bose in Mumbai and SNV Sudhir in Hyderabad)


THE AIRPORT COMMUTE CRISIS
India is now the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, driven by unprecedented airport and passenger growth over the past decade
According to the International Civil Aviation Organization, for every rupee spent, the aviation sector generates more than three times that value in economic activity
Despite the growth in air travel, airport access remains difficult due to illegal taxis and touts overcharging passengers, limited feeder buses and poor metro connectivity
AIRPORT
Number of airports nearly doubles in India
74
2014
163
2025
PASSENGER
Domestic air passenger traffic grows at 13% annually
103 million
2014
350 million
2025
1.1 billion
2047 (Predicted)
Arrivals
BUS
TAXI
Regional connectivity under UDAN
Since its launch in 2016, the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN has operationalised 649 routes and connected 93 aerodromes across the country
Over 1.56+ crore passengers have benefited from affordable regional air travel under UDAN
3.23 lakh RCS flights operated across regional routes nationwide, enabling rise of several regional airlines
The expanded UDAN aims to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country, catering to 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years
Even as 15 airports nationwide remain temporarily non-operational under UDAN, aircraft movements at Kalaburagi, Hubballi, Mysuru and Belagavi airports have fallen by more than 60% since 2021
Busiest airports of India
Growing passenger traffic
2024-25
2023-24
Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi 7.9 cr 7.4 cr
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Intl Airport, Mumbai 5.5 cr 5.3 cr
Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru 4.2 cr 3.8 cr
Rajiv Gandhi Intl Airport, Hyderabad 2.9 cr 2.5 cr
Chennai International Airport, Chennai 2.2 cr 2.1 cr
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Intl Airport, Kolkata 2.2 cr 2.0 cr
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Intl Airport, Ahmedabad 1.3 cr 1.2 cr
Cochin International Airport, Kochi 1.1 cr 1.0 cr
Pune Airport, Pune 1.0 cr 0.95 cr
Dabolim Airport, Goa 0.7 cr 0.7 cr
A MAZE OF LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES
BENGALURU AIRPORT
The recent reconfiguration of bus bays to lease space to private taxis has disrupted the feeder bus system
Pre-booked taxi points have been moved nearly a kilometre away from the arrivals area
Passengers also complain of inadequate taxi services and unauthorised taxi drivers charging more from passengers
While the Namma Metro Blue Line will soon connect passengers to the international airport, travellers from South or West Bengaluru need to change multiple lines with luggage
The Rs 4,100 crore Bengaluru Suburban Rail Link Project, which will efficiently connect the city to the airport by train, is slated for completion only by 2030
CHENNAI AIRPORT
Passengers arriving at Chennai airport must walk nearly one kilometre to reach Grand Southern Trunk Road to access buses, while dragging heavy baggage
Unauthorised taxis often overcharge passengers, with many drivers demanding extra fees at drop-off points. Tensions have recently flared between prepaid taxi drivers and non-members over regulatory issues
There are no signages at the airport to reach the metro or auto/taxi pickup point
HYDERABAD AIRPORT
Umdanagar Railway Station, six km from the airport, connects travellers citywide via a reliable and affordable multi-modal transport system while Hyderabad Metro Phase 2B project has also got approval
State-run AC buses are also operated linking the airport
But, passengers are tricked by unauthorised taxi drivers to use their services and are often overcharged
NAVI MUMBAI AIRPORT
With no metro connectivity and app-based taxis difficult to access, passengers are left with little choice but to rely on Navi Mumbai Municipal Transport (NMMT) buses
Autos drop passengers only at Gate 1, from where one must take an internal terminal bus
A dedicated transit link between the Mumbai and Navi Mumbai international airports, which are nearly 35 km apart by road, is currently lacking
PUNE AIRPORT
Passengers often complain of some drivers favouring only lucrative or long-distance trips, ride refusals by some app-based cab drivers and other issues
Lack of accessibility to feeder buses from the airport terminal area to nearest metro station. Autos drop at the terminal gates
Source: PIB, Ministry of Civil Aviation, IATA, Niti Aayog, IBEF, media reports
Compiled by Divyashri Mudakavi
DH Infographics: RAMU MASTAIAH

Smoother access to Delhi airport

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Over the years, accessibility to the Delhi airport, located 14 to 18 km from the capital's heart Connaught Place has improved significantly.

While cab services, pre-paid taxis and sporadic bus services were once the only options, passengers can now travel to and from the airport using frequent bus services or the metro. Travelling between terminals has also become easier with shuttle services.

However, the most notable improvement is the metro links with terminals that have helped in saving time. The dedicated Airport Express metro line, connecting Terminal 3 to the city, New Delhi Railway Station and areas around the airport, along with a second metro line connecting city outskirts such as Noida and Ghaziabad as well Gurugram and Faridabad to the airport terminals, has eased travel considerably.

A new metro corridor is also planned to connect Aerocity, which is on the Airport Express line, with Terminal 1. Bus service from the airport remains regular and passengers can reach the pick-up points via the inter-terminal shuttle. There is also a buggy service between Terminal 2 and Terminal 3.

Fliers can also avail bus services to Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Pathankot, Karnal, Ambala and Chandigarh from the Public Transportation Centre near the airport.

IAS vacancies, from Page 1

A stronger bureaucracy is essential for a developed nation

At the same time, frequent transfers discourage officers from committing to complex, long-term projects, eroding administrative effectiveness and magnifying the impact of vacancies. The result is an administrative system running at diminished capacity and continuity: a double deficit that India's scale and ambition can ill-afford.

A closer examination of publicly available data on the IAS system reveals a troubling pattern: despite adding 651 officers over a decade, vacancies declined by only 170. This reflects a structural imbalance: annual recruitment of roughly 180 officers barely exceeds yearly attrition of about 160. Consequently, the vacancy rate has fallen by just 4.1 percentage points over ten years.

In 2016, India had 6,396 authorised posts but only 4,926 officers in post, leaving 1,470 vacancies — a 23% shortfall. By 2021, despite the authorised strength rising to 6,746, vacancies had increased to 1,515. The situation improved only marginally thereafter, declining to 1,472 vacancies in 2022 and standing at 1,300 today. Even now, nearly one-fifth (1%) of all sanctioned IAS posts remain unfilled.

IAS vacancies are unevenly distributed, and economically consequential. For example, Maharashtra, India's largest state economy, runs with 89 vacant posts, effectively losing an entire mid-sized state's administrative capacity. Bihar, the country's second most populous state, faces a staggering shortfall of 32% empty posts. Kerala, despite its relatively prosperous economy, runs with 34% of posts unfilled, the highest vacancy rate among major states.

If vacancies represent missing capacity, transfers represent squandered capacity. Data from the Department of Personnel and Training reveal stark variations in officer tenure across states. In Kerala, senior IAS officers at the Secretary rank average just 10 months per posting. Haryana fares

only marginally better, at 11 months. Even at the Centre, under the AGMUT cadre, officers serve an average of 22 months.

The human toll of this transfer culture is exemplified by Ashok Khemka, who was transferred 57 times over 34 years — an average of one transfer every six months. While Khemka is an outlier, the broader pattern is systemic. Management research consistently shows that leadership turnover costs organisations six to nine months of productivity. In the private sector, chief executive officers typically stay in position for years. Yet IAS officers, entrusted with budgets and responsibilities that often exceed those of corporate leaders, face average tenures well under two years in many states.

Minimum tenure

By comparison, Singapore posts administrative officers for three to five years while South Korea mandates minimum tenures enforced by independent boards. On the other hand, India is attempting to run a Rs 320 lakh crore economy with almost one-fifth of its administrative leadership vacant and the remainder rotating every year. No private sector organisation would tolerate this and no high-growth economy can sustain it.

To emerge from this crisis, strict enforcement of structural reforms is essential. The government's recent proposal to raise annual IAS recruitment from 180 to 220 officers is necessary but far from sufficient. The Supreme Court mandated a minimum two-year tenure for certain civil servants back in 2013, a directive that has gone largely unenforced for over a decade.

Rather than relying on half-measures, annual recruitment should be increased to 250–300 officers for at least ten years to offset attrition and stabilise the cadre. Building on the Supreme Court's guidance, we recommend mandating a three-year minimum tenure for IAS officers through autonomous Civil Services Boards. At the same time, systemic reforms such as faster promotion cycles, data-driven officer allocation and mandatory public justification for transfers before the completion of minimum tenure should be implemented to strengthen the administrative system from the ground up.

India's ambition of becoming a developed nation cannot rely on policy intent and capital alone. It ultimately depends on the state's capacity to execute. An administrative system plagued by chronic vacancies and relentless transfers lacks the continuity, institutional memory and accountability that complex development demands. Rebuilding the stability and strength of the IAS cadre would honour Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of the civil services as India's "steel frame," ensuring it is resilient enough to bear the weight of a developed nation.

(Kanadpriya Basu is Founder at ArrowsUP Innovation & Adjunct Faculty at Costello Business School, George Mason University, USA. Subho Majumdar is Assistant Professor of Decision Sciences at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. The authors acknowledge the inputs of Binod Kumar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, School & Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, in the preparation of this article.)

Nirmala to present record 9th Budget amid global turmoil

All eyes on FM's Sunday spread as GDP, inflation numbers cheer

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to present the Union Budget 2026-27 in Parliament on Sunday amid heightened geopolitical uncertainty and sustained outflow of capital.

Though this has dragged the rupee to a record low, the headline macroeconomic numbers look rosy with GDP growth projected at over 7%, inflation under control and the fiscal deficit seeing a steady decline.

This will be Sitharaman's ninth Budget, a record for the most consecutive Budgets presented by a Union finance minister. This year's Budget will also bring Sitharaman within striking distance of former prime minister Morarji Desai's record of 10 Budget presentations. Desai served as finance minister under various prime ministers, including Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

Also, this is the first time the Union Budget will be presented on a Sunday. In 1999, when the conventional scheduled date of February 28 fell on a Sunday, then Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha presented the Budget a day earlier on February 27 (Saturday).

Until 2017, the Budget used to be presented on the last day of February. However, in 2017 the date was advanced to February 1. While in 1999, the then Atal Bihari Vajpayee government chose to advance the Budget date due to a Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has decided to stick to the 'first day of February' schedule.

This year's Budget comes against the backdrop of intensifying global trade tensions, record drop in the value of rupee, surge in gold and silver prices, stock market volatility amid sustained outflow of foreign funds and weak private investments.

The rupee has depreciated by around 7% in the past one year. It slipped below 92 against the US dollar on Thursday. Stock markets have been under pressure in recent weeks.

According to analysts, foreign capital outflow has been the key reason for the rupee depreciation and volatility in the stock market. Foreign portfolio investors pulled Rs 38,740 crore out of the Indian markets in January.

"When capital flows become weaker, the currency becomes weaker as well," Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran told *DH* in an interview.

"To tackle these issues, we need to do whatever we can to improve capital inflows into the economy," he said.

▸ Budget, Page 6

Scan for live and full coverage of Budget in DH

NOTABLE NUMBERS

With inflation projected at **3.5%** for FY27, nominal GDP growth can touch **10%**

- Nominal GDP growth in current fiscal is likely to be lower than expected, which will hurt revenue collection
- Real GDP growth looks robust mainly because of the sharp decline in inflation

In this Union Budget, the Modi Government cannot hide behind the excuse of 'legacy'. Will this Budget offer real solutions to the multiple economic indicators that are now in free fall?
Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president

It will be a good Budget: Goyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday expressed confidence that the 2026-27 Budget, to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, would be a good one.

'Suspicion of money laundering led to raids on Roy'

I-T dept source says raids had found 'incriminating' documents

NINA C GEORGE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Suspicion of money laundering and allegations of huge funding towards political activities in Kerala and Karnataka are what allegedly made the I-T Department keep a close watch on the reality firm Confident Group in the last couple of years.

Roy Chiriankandath Joseph, popularly known as CJ Roy, founder and chairman of the firm, who was found dead in his Langford Town office here on Friday, was on the income-tax department's radar over suspected money laundering and allegedly acting as a "conduit" for some of the biggest names in political circles, according to an official source in the I-T Department.

The source told *DH* that the I-T raids unearthed a trail of "incriminating documents about money having been brought from outside the country as part of the company's allegedly round-tripping operations".

Roy is suspected to have shot himself dead during the income-tax operations at his Bengaluru office.

"He is suspected to have acted as a front for 'off-book payments' made to local politicians from outside the country and the purpose of the whole operation was to make it look like the payment receivers had made legitimate income," the source said, adding that the claim that Roy's realty business was debt-free was enough reason to raise a red flag.

CJ Roy (Inset) and the Confident Group building in Bengaluru .
DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

> Records scrutinised show that his operations also involved selling assets to NRIs at less than market price in India and collecting the balance in the UAE where there is no income tax. Examination of his mobile records showed that he was pumping money to political parties for their party-related activities and their frontal organisations in India
> **Source in I-T dept**

"Records scrutinised show that his operations also involved selling assets to NRIs at less than market price in India and collecting the balance in the UAE where there is no income tax. Examination of his mobile records showed that he was pumping money to political parties for their party-related activities and their frontal organisations in India," the source claimed.

Reports and allegations by Roy's family that he had ended his life because he was facing harassment from income tax officials were wrong, the source said.

The source claimed that "Roy was under pressure because he was handling others' funds".

"Friday's operation was the third such operation in two months. Earlier in December and January, Roy's offices in Kochi and Bengaluru were raided. Prohibitory orders were issued, clearly stating that the assessee should not touch anything at the site under scrutiny because you [officials] need time and cannot value it immediately. Witnesses (usually an independent entity such as bank managers) were present during the operation," the source claimed.

The I-T search on Friday was the last leg which involved examining some lockers and an almirah. "It was more of a verification process. It was just before the pre-scheduled interrogation that Roy went into his cabin and took the extreme step," the source claimed.

Related reports on Page 5

India backs people of Palestine: PM ahead of Israel visit

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Ahead of his visit to Israel, PM Narendra Modi on Saturday reaffirmed India's support for the people of Palestine and welcomed Trump's plan to end the Gaza conflict. The foreign ministers of the member nations of the League of Arab States called on the PM in Delhi.

Narendra Modi

Modi, who turned down Trump's invitation to attend the recent Board of Peace launch event in Switzerland, reiterated India's continued support for the people of Palestine and welcomed ongoing peace efforts, including the peace plan for Gaza.

He conveyed his appreciation for the Arab League's role in supporting efforts towards peace, according to a press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

▸ Modi, Page 6
Another report, Page 10

Epstein files: India trashes PM mention

India on Saturday rejected a reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the investigative files related to Jeffrey Epstein.
Details on Page 8

Hate speech Bill to be sent to Prez

BENGALURU, DHNS: Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has decided to send the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, to the President. Confirming this, state government sources said the Governor listed several objections to the Bill.
Details on Page 6

4 workers found dead in Hoskote

BENGALURU, DHNS: Four young migrant workers from Assam were found dead in a shed in Hoskote taluk in the early hours of Saturday. Police suspected that the victims died of carbon monoxide poisoning after they left a gas stove operating in their room that had no proper ventilation.
Details on Page 3A

Sunetra Pawar sworn in as first woman DyCM of Maharashtra

MUMBAI, DHNS: NCP's Sunetra Pawar was on Saturday appointed Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister - the first woman to occupy the coveted post since the formation of the state 66 years ago.

Sunetra Pawar takes oath as the DyCM in Mumbai. PTI

Sunetra (62) was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Maharashtra Governor Acharya Devvrat at Lok Bhavan in Mumbai in a simple, formal ceremony just three days after her husband and NCP president and deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar died in a plane crash.

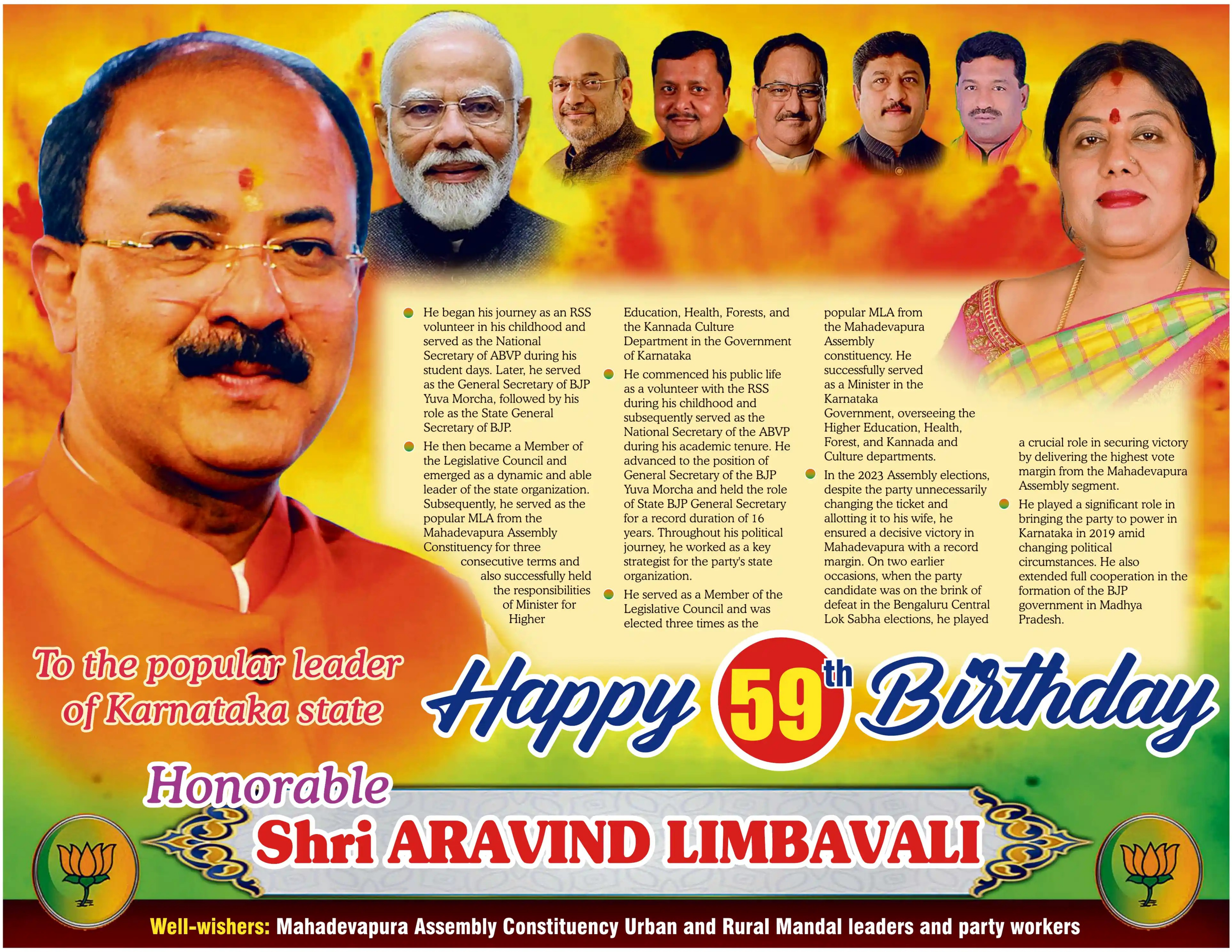
It was an emotional moment for many as slogans of 'Ajit Dada amar rahe' rent the air as she walked to the podium for the swearing in ceremony, which was attended by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and their Cabinet colleagues.

Sunetra is expected to take charge at Mantralaya, the state secretariat, on Monday.

Ajit Pawar (66) had been a six-time and the state's longest-serving deputy chief minister, a post he occupied for close to nine years.

Ajit Pawar held multiple portfolios including Finance, Planning, State Excise Duty, Sports and Youth Affairs, Minorities Development and Aukaf. Besides, he was the guardian minister of Pune and Beed districts.

▸ Sunetra, Page 6
Another report, Page 8


To the popular leader of Karnataka state
Happy 59th Birthday
Honorable
Shri ARAVIND LIMBAVALI
Well-wishers: Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency Urban and Rural Mandal leaders and party workers

Serial collision near Chandapura disrupts traffic; four injured

BENGALURU, DHNS

Damaged vehicles at the accident site near Chandapura on Friday.

Traffic on the busy Bengaluru-Hosur National Highway (NH-44) was thrown into disarray on Friday morning after a serial collision involving a BMTC bus, a lorry and two cars near the Hale Chandapura railway bridge.

The accident, which occurred around 7.30 am, left four people with minor injuries, including a young child. While the vehicles sustained extensive damage, with one car overturning and being dragged several meters by the lorry, police stated that the vehicles were slow-moving, which prevented a larger tragedy.

According to Surya City Police, the pile-up was triggered when two cars, travelling from the Hale Chandapura side, allegedly entered the highway from the wrong direction. The motorists were reportedly attempting to bypass the heavy congestion caused by ongoing highway expansion work.

As the cars moved against the flow of traffic, they collided head-on with a truck. The impact caused one car to be wedged beneath the lorry, while a BMTC bus following behind was unable to brake in time, resulting in a chain reaction.

The incident sparked fury among locals and commuters, who criticised the authorities for their perceived negligence. "This spot has become a death trap due to the ongoing construction and poor planning," a frustrated resident said.

A senior police officer, however, noted that the vehicles were moving at a speed of approximately 5 to 6 km/h due to the bottleneck at the railway bridge, which mitigated the severity of the injuries.

The mangled remains of the cars had to be cleared using a crane, during which time traffic on the Hosur main road was jammed. Office-goers and students were the worst hit, with many stuck in the gridlock for over an hour.

The Surya City Police have registered a case against the lorry driver.

BLIND SPOTS Verification of domestic workers remains inconsistent, cops say

City's surveillance grows but insider thefts persist

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Enhanced Hoysala patrols and technology-driven verification have aided police efforts to prevent thefts across the city. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

The recent burglary of Rs 18 crore at a builder's residence in Marathahalli, allegedly committed by domestic helpers, has once again drawn attention to a worrying trend. Servant thefts have emerged as a major residential crime concern in the city, with cases remaining stubbornly high even as house break-in thefts (HBT) showed a decline after peaking in 2023, data accessed by DH reveals.

While overall house break-ins (by day and by night) dropped from 1,200 cases in 2023 to 847 in 2025, servant thefts remain high. Data showed that servant thefts had nearly doubled over five years, rising from 180 cases in 2021 to 385 in 2025.

Night-time burglaries continue to dominate the HBT category. Of the 847 break-ins reported in 2025, as many as 634 occurred at night, underlining persistent vulnerabilities in residential layouts.

Police data from 2021 to 2025 show that key categories such as house theft by night, motor vehicle theft and house theft cases have remained high even as the city has expanded surveillance infrastructure and patrol strength. The year 2023 was the worst for house thefts, with post-pandemic mobility contributing to a spike in both house break-ins and insider thefts. Though incidents declined in 2024 and 2025, officers caution that falling detection rates and repeat offenders remain a challenge.

The city police say servant thefts are common in independent houses and gated communities, where domestic help often gain unrestricted access over long periods. "Unlike break-ins, servant thefts often come to light much later, making detection difficult," a senior official said.

A senior police officer from the East Division said that though theft-related crimes have increased over the last five years, the detection rate has not kept pace.

The Rs 18-crore burglary involving a Nepali couple has highlighted the detection challenges in such cases, where offenders often have prior access to homes and knowledge of valuables. Police say background verification of domestic workers remains inconsistent, especially in independent houses.

"Most of these offenders don't break locks. They already have access, which explains why servants often know bedroom layouts, locker locations and even about duplicate keys. They observe routines for months, identify valuables and strike when families are away. Many accused project themselves as obedient, soft-spoken and reliable, often producing character certificates that landlords rarely verify. People assume a certificate means safety. That's not true unless it's backed by proper police verification," the officer said.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told *DH* that they have increased surveillance and introduced a host of measures to keep a check on thefts. "Measures include increased night patrols, fingerprint verification, expansion of CCTV networks, coordination with resident welfare associations, and initiatives such as community policing and neighbourhood watch programmes," Singh said. Police teams are intensifying night nakabandis and regular checks, and surveillance has been stepped up, especially in vulnerable residential areas, with monitoring of locked houses also heightened.

Police also say residents are increasingly installing private surveillance cameras and burglar alarms, which has helped prevent or detect several offences.

Night burglaries

Among all categories, house theft by night (HBT–Night) has seen the sharpest increase. In 2021, the city reported 684 cases, of which only about 365 were detected, roughly half. The number rose to 741 in 2022, climbed further to 925 in 2023, and slightly decreased in 2024 and 2025. "Earlier, high-value targets were concentrated in a few areas. Now wealth is spread across East and South Bengaluru, Whitefield, Kalyan Nagar, Electronic City and other areas, making policing more complex," a senior officer said.

Speaking to *DH*, a senior police officer from the Central Crime Branch opined that enhanced night patrols, technology-driven verification and closer coordination with the public have helped police prevent and detect house break-in theft (HBT) cases across the city.

"Most house break-ins happen when residents are away or houses remain locked for long periods. Our night patrols and early-morning checks have been strengthened to prevent such offences," he said.

He further said technology has significantly improved policing on the ground. Police personnel are now equipped with mobile fingerprint verification devices linked to a criminal database. "If we come across a suspicious person during patrols or checks, fingerprints can be verified on the spot to ascertain antecedents. This helps us identify repeat offenders and people on our hotlist. Based on the pattern of offences, we track habitual offenders, recently released prisoners and suspects with similar antecedents," he added.

'Silent facilitators'

A special police team recently raided a well-known gold company in Central Bengaluru after investigators found that stolen jewellery from a theft reported last year had been routed to a gold-buying firm.

Senior police officers said such companies and unregulated pawn brokers act as "silent facilitators" of burglaries by offering instant cash for stolen ornaments with little or no verification.

"The jewellery was melted almost immediately, erasing crucial evidence and making recovery virtually impossible," an officer said.

Police said this well-oiled chain—from burglar to middleman to gold-buying outlet—poses one of the biggest challenges to property crime investigations. The ease with which stolen gold is absorbed into the market not only hampers detection but also indirectly encourages repeat offences, officers warned.

Vehicle theft tops crime charts

Motor vehicle theft continues to account for the highest volume of cases. The city recorded 4,270 cases in 2021, which rose to 6,165 in 2023. While 2024 saw a marginal dip to around 5,575 cases, 2025 still reported nearly 4,490 thefts, indicating that the crime remains widespread. However, detection rates remain below 50%.

Investigators point to the existence of an organised market for dismantled vehicle parts as a major hurdle. "Two-wheelers form a large share of stolen vehicles, but cars are also dismantled and sold in parts. Scrap markets and illegal repair hubs make tracing stolen vehicles difficult," an officer said, adding that areas such as Shivajinagar, JC Road and other scrap clusters often come under scrutiny. Police say CCTV footage plays a crucial role in tracking movement but is often insufficient once vehicles are broken down within hours of theft.

Curated by DH Brandspot

HISTORIC PROGRAMME IN HUBBALLI

Zameer Ahmed Khan proves his organisational strength

Zameer Ahmed Khan with AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and senior leaders at the house distribution event at Hubballi.

Zameer Ahmed Khan, Minister for Housing, Minorities Development and Waqf, Government of Karnataka, organised a massive house distribution programme at Hubballi yesterday, demonstrating his concern for the masses and also his exceptional organisational capability.

He earned the appreciation of the party High Command for mobilising over than 2.50 lakh people for the programme. At the event, 42,345 houses were handed over to the allotees by the Slum Development Board. Significantly, AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, while speaking at the event, stated that it was unprecedented. Such an event on such a large scale had never been conducted before.

Last year too, Zameer Ahmed Khan had demonstrated his organisational ability by successfully conducting the State government's two-year achievement convention at Vijayanagara, Hosapete, of which he is the minister in-charge. Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, had attended this event.

Leaving no stone unturned to make the event a grand success, Zameer Ahmed Khan camped in Hubballi for 10 days, working closely with Prasad Abbayya, Chairman, Slum Development Board, and coordinated with the in-charge ministers, MLAs and party leaders. He took everyone into confidence and ensured the programme was a grand success.

The Hubballi programme has become a topic of discussion among AICC circles, with many leaders stating that such large-scale programmes strengthen the party organisation. Senior leaders including Rahul Gandhi, K C Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala reportedly called Zameer Ahmed Khan and appreciated the well-organised event, according to sources.

In a span of one year, Zameer Ahmed Khan has organised three mega events successfully, including the grand Jashn-e-Eid Milad-un-Nabi celebration held at the Bengaluru Palace Grounds. Lakhs of people participated in all the events. These events stand as powerful testimonials to his remarkable leadership, mass appeal and extraordinary organisational skills.

Leader of the masses

In recent times, Zameer Ahmed Khan has evolved beyond being viewed as a leader of only the Muslim community. He has emerged as a leader also representing Dalits, backward classes and all sections of society. Within the Congress party, he is increasingly being recognised as one of the most influential leaders in Karnataka after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. His practice of beginning speeches with 'Jai Bhim' has earned him immense respect and affection among Dalit communities.

Four labourers found dead in rented shed in Hoskote

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a tragic incident, four young migrant workers from Assam were found dead in their rented shed at E. Muthsandra village in Hoskote taluk on Saturday morning. Preliminary investigations suggest the victims died of suffocation due to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning after leaving a stove and gas cylinder active in a room with no ventilation.

The deceased have been identified as Jayant Chinty, Nirendranath Tide, Doctor Tide and Dhananjay Tide. All four were aged between 20 and 22 years. According to police, the victims were employed as loading and unloading labourers at a nearby Coca-Cola warehouse.

The tragedy came to light early on Saturday morning at around 12.30 am when the workers failed to show up for their shift. When colleagues went to check on them at their labour shed, they found the door locked from the inside and received no response. Upon breaking in, all four men were found unconscious and unresponsive. The Sulibele police visited the spot and conducted a preliminary investigation.

The Sulibele police noted that the workers had been cooking late on Friday night. To ward off the night-time chill, the workers had reportedly closed all windows and doors tightly. "The shed was completely airtight. We suspect that the cooking gas led to the accumulation of carbon monoxide. Since the gas is odourless and colourless, the victims lost consciousness in their sleep and suffocated," an officer close to the investigation said.

The bodies have been shifted to a local government hospital for post-mortem examination. The Sulibele police have registered a case of unnatural death.

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/230126/008427
ಡಿಎಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸ್ಫೂರ್ತಿ ನೆಸ್ಟ್

DS MAX

Introducing

DS MAX Spoorthi Nest

Built on Love, Backed by Demand

DS MAX Spoorthi was so Loved that it Sold Out in a Heartbeat. Hence, Introducing, DS MAX Spoorthi Nest. The Home You Missed is Finally Back

You Wished - We Fulfilled!

Sarjapur–Attibele Road

G+4 FLOORS

LUXURIOUS 2 & 3-BHK APARTMENTS

2-BHK HOMES @ ₹63.60L*

3-BHK HOMES @ ₹69.75L*

CREDAI BENGALURU

Don't Let The Dream Slip Away Again

8880 003 003 www.dsmaxproperties.com

2, 3 & 4-BHK APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/291225/008366 G+22
HOSUR ROAD
₹ 60.30 - 98.70 Lakhs*
8880 003 003

PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/251024/007179 G+14
WHITEFIELD
₹ 77.91 L - 1.32 Cr*
8880 461 461

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/472/PR/250225/007524 G+14
AIRPORT ROAD
₹ 87.89 L - 1.21 Cr*
8880 465 465

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721 G+14
MYSORE ROAD
₹ 67.28 - 95.28 Lakhs*
8880 461 461

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/281125/008287 G+14
JIGANI
₹ 58.45 - 92.06 Lakhs*
8880 003 003

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/151223/006489 G+3
BANASHANKARI
₹ 1.45 - 2.17 Cr*
8880 461 461

PRM/KA/RERA/1250/301/PR/251024/007178 G+14
YELAHANKA
₹ 54.85 - 97.21 Lakhs*
8880 465 465

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006973 G+14
BANNERGHATTA RD.
₹ 62.42 - 82.18 Lakhs*
8880 013 310

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/210324/006724 G+14
BEGUR
₹ 87.62 L - 1.31 Cr*
8880 013 310

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006972 G+4
HOSA ROAD METRO
₹ 67.92 L - 1.34 Cr*
8880 013 310

PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/150224/006622 G+14
WHITEFIELD
₹ 70.65 L - 1.06 Cr*
8880 461 461

Visit our website or talk to our advisors for the complete portfolio

Disclaimer: Information provided in this advertisement is for reference only, and all data is sourced internally. The images, illustrations, and artist's impressions used in this advertisement are for representational purposes only. The prices mentioned are indicative and base prices. Any offers, discounts, or incentives mentioned in this advertisement are subject to specific terms and conditions. All taxes, registration charges, stamp duty, and any other statutory payments are applicable as per government regulations. All directions, locations, and landmarks are approximate. Please use reliable resources for accurate travel times. Mentioning a specific product, process, or service does not imply endorsement. Please contact our Sales Team for detailed information about specific projects, pricing, availability, and other inquiries. DS-MAX Properties ensures that all its projects comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and its regulations. Visit : www.rera.karnataka.gov.in
*T & C Apply

Flute duet

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will present a flute duet by Heramb and Hemanth (Flute Brothers), with L Ramakrishnan on violin, B C Manjunath on mridanga and G Guru Prasanna on khanjira, at 5.30 pm on February 1 as part of the Annual Spring Music Festival at the Bangalore Gayana Samaja on K R Road.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Agriwalk: A walk for farmers' empowerment: Department of Agriculture: Bandstand, Cubbon Park; 6.30 am

Bengaluru Patla Yakshotsava: Children's Yakshagana competition under the title 'Hejje-Gejje' from 8.30 am, 'Yaksha Chitrasanthe' for children, Inaugural function from 11 am: D K Shivakumar, Umesh Shetty, Uday Kumar Shetty, Uday Hegde, Karunakar Hegde, Dinesh Vaidya, Patla Satish Shetty, Yaksha ballet under the direction of Guru Sanjeeva Suvarna from 1 pm, Recitation of P Kalinga Rao-Kalinga Navadara's Pada Padhi under the title 'Kalinga-Kalinga' from 2 pm, Closing ceremony from 5 pm, 'Kateel Kshetra Mahatme' Yakshagana discourse by the greats of Tenku Badgina at 6 pm, Yaksha Dhruva Patla Foundation Bangalore Unit: Bantara Sangha, Vijayanagar

Beary Koota: Inauguration: CM Siddaramaiah: Shabir Brigade: U T Khader: Beary Central Committee: Shringar Palace, Palace Grounds; 10 am

CULTURAL

61st Naadjyoti Music Festival: Panchvenu Vaadana: H S Venugopal, M S Pramukh, Aprameya Seshadri, Suhas Murali, Achyut M Atreya, Violin: R Raghuram, Mridangam: G Aravind, Khanjeera: R Harish Chandra: Naadjyoti Sangeet Sabha Trust: Sriram Mandir, East Park Road, Malleswaram, from 4.15 pm

Dakshinasya Darshini Closing Ceremony: S Somnath, Prahlad Rama Rao: Vedanta Bharati, Venue: Tripuravasini, Palace Grounds; 4.30 pm

Musical Conversation: 'Tukaram Hele Kabira': Jayathirtha Mayvundi, Bhuvanesh Komakali, Dhanashree Lele: Pancham Nishad Institute: Choudaiyya Memorial Bhavan, 5.30 pm

Annual Spring Music Festival: Flute Jugalbandi: Heramb, Hemant, Violin: L Ramakrishnan, Mridanga: B C Manjunath, Khanjira: G Guruprasanna: Sri Rama Lalithakala Mandira: Bangalore Gayana Samaja, K R Road; 5.30 pm

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Mainly Clear sky
TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.6°C
Minimum	15.4°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	39%
Sunset (Jan 1)	6:20 pm
Sunrise (Jan 2)	6:46 am
Moonrise	4:52 pm
Moonset	5:14 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

BMRCL deploys Home Guards to improve metro etiquette

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has introduced a special drive to promote responsible commuter behaviour and better etiquette.

As part of the initiative, two Home Guards will be deployed across metro trains to counsel commuters and raise awareness. The drive will focus on ensuring that priority seating is made available to senior citizens, pregnant women and persons with disabilities who require it, and on counselling passengers against actions that inconvenience the public, such as playing loud music, chewing tobacco and eating food.

As per data shared by the BMRCL, in the past year, 57,538 commuters were found playing loud music inside trains, 37,038 commuters were counselled for occupying priority seating without vacating it for passengers in need, 1,907 commuters were found eating inside trains, and 1,677 commuters were caught chewing tobacco products.

"Certain offences causing inconvenience to co-passengers attract penalties under the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002," BMRCL said in a statement.

PARAS

FARNAZ

PUBLIC NOTICE
TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

The General Public are hereby notified that my clients- **Sri. Dr. H.V. Krishnaswamy, Smt. R. K. Saraswathi, W/o Dr. H.V. Krishnaswamy,** both residing at No. 1062, 7th A Main, III Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034 and also as the legal representative of **Late H M Ramaiah, S/o Late Muniswamy Nayaka,** No. 1259/691, 13th Cross, Girinagar, Banashankari III Stage, Bengaluru-560085 have **sold about 43.18 Acres** of land in Mudenahalli village, Harohalli Hobli and Taluk, Ramnagar District bearing different survey numbers to Rashtrotthana Parishat, Keshava Shilpa, Kempegowda Nagar, Bengaluru. In addition, my clients have also arranged the sale of about **8.28 acres of land** in the same village from different land owners to Rashtrotthana Parishat.

My clients have not received the entire sale consideration of the above said lands from Rashtrotthana Parishat and **about more than Rupees Five crores in all is still due to my clients.**

My clients have reliably learnt that the said Rashtrotthana Parishat is negotiating with financial institutions to avail huge loans by mortgaging the above lands.

My clients hereby notify the General Public and Financial Institutions that my clients have a prior, valid, subsisting charge over the above said lands allegedly purchased by Rashtrotthana Parishat and my clients intend to initiate appropriate legal proceedings shortly against Rashtrotthana Parishat for recovery of the above said dues to my clients or for the cancellation of the fraudulent sale deeds got executed by Rashtrotthana Parishat in their favour and also for recovery of damages as per MOU entered into by Rashtrotthana Parishat with my clients.

Hence my clients Notify the General Public, Financial Institutions that they will be dealing with Rashtrotthana Parishat in respect of the above said lands at their own risks, costs and consequences.

Sd/- H. NARASIMHA MURTHY, Advocate,
No. 4 & 11, II Floor, Opp. SBI Bank,
Malgala Main Road, Nagarbhavi II Stage,
Bengaluru-560091. Ph. 9241771934

Date: 31-1-2026
Place: Bangalore

INDIAN COAST GUARD
We Protect ...
50th Raising Day
30
INDIAN COAST GUARD
COAST GUARD
EMERGENCY MARITIME SEARCH & RESCUE (SAR) TELEPHONE NO. 1554
Note : Kindly call on above Toll free no. for any emergency at Sea
PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS 2025-26
Republic Day - 2026 (26th January 26)
ADG Donny Michael, PTM, TM : Ati Vishisht Seva Medal
DIG KS Sitaram : Vishisht Seva Medal
IG Iqbal Singh Chauhan, TM, IG Datwinder Singh Saini, TM : President's Tatrakshak Medal (Distinguished Service)
P/Nvk (ME) Saumyaranjan Behera : Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak
Late Comdt Rakesh Kumar Rana, Late Comdt (JG) Vipin Babu, Late P/Nvk (RP) Karan Singh : Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry) Posthumous
Comdt (JG) Shailendra Singh Bisht, P/Nvk (RP) Gautam Yadav, P/Nvk (RP) Banti Kumar : Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry)
DIG Vinod Kumar Parmar, DIG Arun Kumar Bhardwaj, DIG Sudhakar Patil, Comdt Indu P, P/Adh (RO) Tapas Kumar Banerjee : Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service)
CBC 10147/13/0016/2526
Independence Day - 2025 (15th August 25)
Comdt Srinivas Gadam, Comdt (JG) Ankit Sharma, Comdt (JG) Rajkamal Attri : Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry)
IG Anupam Rai, DIG Bibhuti Ranjan : Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service)
Follow us at : @IndianCoastGuard @IndiaCoastGuard @indiancoastguard_official @indiancoastguard9228
To Join Indian Coast Guard, visit us: www.joinindiancoastguard.gov.in and www.indiancoastguard.gov.in

Two illegal borewells pop up in Whitefield

BWSSB says both parties were told to stop the drilling

BENGALURU, DHNS

Residents of Whitefield have raised an alarm over the growing menace of illegal borewells in the locality.

Two illegal borewell drillings continue to take place within Whitefield's White Rose Layout, despite intervention by the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and the police, residents told *DH*.

According to a senior BWSSB official, the drilling began on January 30. "Once we learnt about the drilling, we notified both parties to stop immediately as they did not have the required permits. When they failed to heed the warning and resumed work after a few hours, we filed a complaint with the police. Now it is up to the police to handle the matter," he told *DH*.

However, due to the absence of an FIR, the police are unable to take the case forward, said Sandeep Anirudhan, convenor of Namma Whitefield, a resident welfare group.

"The BWSSB has only filed a petition, and the police say they cannot act based on a petition. An FIR is required, which the BWSSB isn't filing," he said.

Illegal borewell drilling underway in White Rose Layout.
PHOTO: WHITEFIELD CITIZENS WARD COMMITTEE/X

The two borewells are being dug for construction purposes, he told *DH*. "It is completely illegal. What builders do is drill borewells to access the little water that remains and use it for construction. This has become quite common for commercial buildings such as PGs, which populate the area," he added.

However, the BWSSB denies these allegations, claiming that a thorough process is followed to curb the menace of illegal borewells. While Cauvery water has reached the locality, the supply remains infrequent. As per residents, they receive Cauvery water once every four days. In addition, the BWSSB has deployed 29 water tankers for the neighbourhood.

Anurag Kashyap on censor woes and how films are meant for big screen

Says he's too old to change according to audience preferences

PRANATI AS
BENGALURU, DHNS

The biggest fear Anurag Kashyap faces in India, he says, is not being able to make the kind of films he wants to.

"I know what happens when my film goes for certification in India," he said.

The renowned filmmaker was speaking at the session 'fearless filmmaking' at the 17th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival on Saturday.

It was moderated by well-known film critic Baradwaj Rangan. He expressed concerns of making films in the current era in India, and the need to adapt to changing audience preferences.

"As an Academy member, I watch a lot of foreign films and my ruse is, why do we not make such films in India?. We don't make such films because these filmmakers will not survive in India," he said.

Rangan and Kashyap discussed the changing landscape of film consumption – mobile phones and OTT platforms.

Kashyap's 'Kennedy' is releasing on Zee5 next month. He expressed disappointment about films being watched on small screens.

"Films are meant to be watched on the big screen. Kennedy was not meant for the small screen. But I'm happy it is at least releasing in the theatres," he said.

Will Kashyap change according to audience preferences and make movies for the small screen going forward?

Director Anurag Kashyap is in conversation with film critic Baradwaj Rangan at the session 'fearless filmmaking' at the 17th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival on Saturday.

He says 'no'.

"I'm too old to change now and it is important to stay true to one's artistic vision," he adds.

Kashyap is known for such movies as Black Friday, Gangs of Wasseypur, Dev D, No Smoking and Bombay Velvet.

At the event, Kashyap announced that he will produce a film adaptation of Vivek Shanbag's 'Gachar Gochar'.

AI won't impact editing: Sreekar Prasad

Well-known film editor Sreekar Prasad, who has edited over 600 movies across languages, says artificial intelligence will not take away the vision of the editor.

Speaking about the 'Art of Editing', moderated by producer Sandeep Vishwanath, Prasad said AI will not be able to replace human intuition.

He spoke about the philosophy of editing, the changing nature of technology and the enduring role of human judgement in storytelling.

On moving from film to digital, he said, "I saw the ease of the equipment when I worked on a documentary. Film is still nostalgia and I loved working on it, but new-age editing technology makes the process much easier". He highlighted the need to break away from conventional editing techniques and to find innovative ways to tell stories, especially in the context of Indian cinema, which often relies on verbose dialogue and repetitive patterns.

Cinephile woes

Among the many woes cinephiles expressed were small screens with low seating capacity at Lulu mall, compared to the previous venue, and inconsistency in scheduling films. "The screens are very small. The seating capacity is very low and I missed two movies yesterday," said Akshay Bharadwaj, a cinephile. "Apichatpong Weerasethukal is the contemporary filmmaker in focus this year, but no movies of the filmmaker are scheduled in the first four days of screening," said an angry cinephile. They are also unhappy about high food prices at the venue.

Electric autos will ply between Krantiverra Sangoli Rayanna metro station and the festival venue at Lulu mall, from 8.30 am Sunday onwards, confirmed mall authorities.

HC upholds acquisition of 281 acres on Magadi Road for APMC's mega market

BENGALURU, DHNS

A division bench of the Karnataka High Court upheld the acquisition of around 281 acres of land on Magadi Road in Bengaluru city for establishing a mega market by the state-owned Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC).

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha passed this order while dismissing the appeal filed by Jamnalal Bajaj Seva Trust.

During 1994–1996 period, the preliminary and final notifications were to acquire 172.22 acres in Srigandhakaval village and 107.34 acres in Herohalli village for establishing a mega market by APMC. The trust had challenged the notification and after several litigations, the Apex Court had remanded the matter back to the high court in 2022. On February 3, 2025, the single bench passed the order rejecting the petition filed by the trust.

The single bench had noted that the representatives of the trust, including the CEO, participated in the meeting held on September 24, 1999, chaired by the Principal Secretary to government, Department of Revenue, for the fixation of land value. After negotiations, it was agreed that the trust would be paid Rs 15 lakh per acre in respect of 172 acres 4 guntas at Srigandhakaval, the single bench had noted.

Challenging this order, the trust contended that the land is still in its possession and that the acquisition proceedings were incomplete. The trust claimed that the APMC, which is the beneficiary of the acquisition, decided to establish the market yard at some other place.

However, the division bench noted that the parties had deliberations and agreed upon the quantum of compensation amount to be paid for the acquired lands. Pursuant to which a substantial amount of compensation was also deposited by the APMC, and a portion of the compensation was released in favour of the trust.

"The balance compensation was not paid to the Trust in view of the State contending that the lands held by the Trust were excess lands as contemplated under the Land Reforms Act. In view of the same, the appellants (trust) have failed in demonstrating that the order of the Single Judge is in any manner erroneous and liable to be interfered with by this Court in the present appeals. Accordingly, the above appeals are dismissed as being devoid of merit," the division bench said.

Stolen two-wheelers worth Rs 5.5L recovered

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ten stolen two-wheelers worth Rs 5.5 lakh have been recovered, and the police have arrested three persons. According to Bengaluru City Police, in June 2025, a complaint regarding a two-wheeler theft was filed by an individual residing in Lingarajapuram. While investigating the case, the police arrested three individuals from Appajappa Layout.

With their arrest, seven two-wheeler theft cases — two from Banaswadi, and one each from DJ Halli, Govindapura, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Upparpet and Nelamangala — have been solved.

The accused have been identified as Mohammad Rakib (26), A. Rafiq Basha (39), and Mohammed Azgar (24).

सीएसआईआर - राष्ट्रीय वांतरिक्ष प्रयोगशालाएं
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
NATIONAL AEROSPACE LABORATORIES
पी बी सं. 1779, एचएएल एयरपोर्ट रोड, कोडिहल्ली, बेंगलूरु – 560 017
P B No. 1779, HAL Airport Road, Kodihalli, Bengaluru - 560017. India
ISO:9001:2015 Certified

ADVT. No. 03/2026/APP

CSIR-NAL invites eligible Graduate/Diploma Engineers for a Walk-in-Interview for Apprenticeship Trainee from 10.02.2026 to 11.02.2026.

For complete details of advertisement and walk-in-interview schedule, please visit **www.nal.res.in.**

Sd/-
Sr. Controller of Administration

BANGALORE NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer
Pulikeshinagar Division, Robertson Road Bangalore.

No. EE/(PN)/TEND/PR/08/ 2025-26 Date: 31.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only-Single Cover System)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Commissioner BNCC for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of equivalent registration with CPWD/ KPWD/ Railways/ MES or any State Government Organizations **(Standard Tender Document KW1 & KW2)** for the works detailed in the table below

Sl.No	Name of the work
	General Category Works
1	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No. 70 Kushal Nagara for the Year 2025-26. **Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)**: 30.00. **EMD (in Rs)**: 60000.00.
2	Filling up of Pot Holes in Ward No. 71 Muneshwara Nagara for the Year 2025-26. **Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)**: 20.00. **EMD (in Rs)**: 50000.00.
3	Filling up of Pot Holes in Ward No. 73 S K Garden for the Year 2025-26. **Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)**: 20.00. **EMD (in Rs)**: 50000.00.
4	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains Ward No. 74 Sagayapuram for the Year 2025-26. **Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)**: 30.00. **EMD (in Rs)**: 60000.00.
5	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains Ward No. 75 Pulikeshinagara for the Year 2025-26. **Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)**: 30.00. **EMD (in Rs)**: 60000.00.
6	Filling up of Pot Holes in Ward No. 69 Kavalbyrasandra for the Year 2025-26. **Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)**: 20.00. **EMD (in Rs)**: 50000.00.
7	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No. 69 Kavalbyrasandra for the Year 2025-26. **Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)**: 30.00. **EMD (in Rs)**: 60000.00.
	SC Category Works
1	Filling up of Pot Holes in Ward No. 70 Kushal Nagara for the Year 2025-26. **Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)**: 20.00. **EMD (in Rs)**: 25000.00.
	ST Category Works
1	Filling up of Pot Holes in Ward No. 72 Devara Jeevana halli for the Year 2025-26. **Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)**: 20.00. **EMD (in Rs)**: 25000.00.
	CAT-I Category Works
1	Filling up of Pot Holes in Ward No. 75 Pulikeshinagara for the Year 2025-26. **Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)**: 20.00. **EMD (in Rs)**: 25000.00.
	CAT-II(A) Category Works
1	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains Ward No. 71 Muneshwara Nagara for the Year 2025-26. **Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)**: 30.00. **EMD (in Rs)**: 30000.00.
2	Filling up of Pot Holes in Ward No. 74 Sagayapuram for the Year 2025-26. **Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)**: 20.00. **EMD (in Rs)**: 25000.00.
	Processing Fee (in Rs) Tender: As per KPPP Portal
	Period of Completion (in Days) Including Monsoon: 365 Days

Calendar of events as follows: **(1)** Tender Documents may be downloaded from KPPP portal: **09.02.2026. (2)** Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on: **12-02-2026 at 15:00 Hrs noon in the office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005. (3)** Last Date & Time for Receipts of tenders: **20.02.2026 up to 16:00 hours. (4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **21.02.2026 after 16:30 hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Pulikeshinagar Division, Zone-1
Bengaluru North City Corporation

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪ್ರಧಾನಮಂತ್ರಿ ಪೋಷಣ್ ಶಕ್ತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ್(ಮ.ಉ.ಯೋ),
ಅಕ್ಷರದಾಸೋಹ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಮಂಡ್ಯ–571428
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eomdm.mdy@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಎಂ./ಅ.ದಾ/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಇ–51403 /2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:30–01–2026

2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಪೋಷಣ್–ಅಕ್ಷರ ದಾಸೋಹ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಗೋಧಿ, ತೊಗರಿಬೇಳೆ, ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಎಣ್ಣೆ, ಆಹಾರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯಾ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕೆ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಸಗಟು ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳಿಂದ ಶಾಲಾ ಅಡುಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
–:ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ:–

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆರಂಭ (Queries/Clarifications) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–02–2026 ವೇಳೆ:ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10–30ರಿಂದ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:17–02–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5–30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ.
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–02–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–02–2026 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 3–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
(ಮೇಲಿನ ದಿನ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯಗಳು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ.)

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು/ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ವಿವರ	ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದ ಅಡುಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಡಲಾದ ಅಂದಾಜುಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) 4*2.5%
1	2	3	4	5
1	**ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು** ಕೆ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಗೋದಾಮಿನಿಂದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ & ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ & ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಅಡುಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಗೋಧಿ, ತೊಗರಿಬೇಳೆ, ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಆಹಾರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು.	337	790350/–	19759/–
2	**ಮದ್ದೂರು** ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕೆ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ ಗೋದಾಮಿನಿಂದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ & ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ & ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಅಡುಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಗೋಧಿ, ತೊಗರಿಬೇಳೆ, ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಆಹಾರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು	258	736500/–	18413/–
3	**ಮಳವಳ್ಳಿ** ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕೆ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಗೋದಾಮಿನಿಂದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ & ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ & ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಅಡುಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಗೋಧಿ, ತೊಗರಿಬೇಳೆ, ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಆಹಾರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು.	272	883200/–	22080
4	**ಮಂಡ್ಯ** ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕೆ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಗೋದಾಮಿನಿಂದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ & ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ & ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಅಡುಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಗೋಧಿ, ತೊಗರಿಬೇಳೆ, ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಆಹಾರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು.	348	1180500/–	29513/–
5	**ನಾಗಮಂಗಲ** ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕೆ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಗೋದಾಮಿನಿಂದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ & ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ & ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಅಡುಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಗೋಧಿ, ತೊಗರಿಬೇಳೆ, ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಆಹಾರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು.	275	559500	13988/–
6	**ಪಾಂಡವಪುರ** ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕೆ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಗೋದಾಮಿನಿಂದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ & ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ & ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಅಡುಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಗೋಧಿ, ತೊಗರಿಬೇಳೆ, ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಆಹಾರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು.	184	570600	14265
7	**ಶ್ರೀರಂಗಪಟ್ಟಣ** ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕೆ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಗೋದಾಮಿನಿಂದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ & ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ & ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಅಡುಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಗೋಧಿ, ತೊಗರಿಬೇಳೆ, ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಆಹಾರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು.	149	400650/–	10016/–

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in KPPP Portal** ಅಥವಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್. ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮಂಡ್ಯ/749/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025–26

BANGALORE CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Joint Commissioner Zone-1, Residency Road,
Mayohall Bangalore-560001

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಬಿಸಿಸಿಸಿ/ಜಂಆ–1/ಟೆಂಡ/09/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ31–01–2026

NOTIFICATION

In the interest of public health, interested organizations are requested to submit applications for opening an eye hospital on the basis of Expression of Interest (EOI) subject to the following conditions in Ward 112 Domlur of Shanthinagar Assembly Constituency under Bangalore Central City Corporation by date: **07-02-2026**, applications submitted after that will not be considered.

1) To provide good quality eye treatment services to the poor and slum dwellers and all the public in the Shantinagar area and under the CGHS rate under the outpatient department. To provide services by installing the necessary machinery. **2)** To provide services by experienced doctors appointed by the organization. **3)** To conduct free eye examinations. **4)** To organize check-up camps from time to time and provide treatment advice. **5)** To provide basic facilities like electricity, water supply, telephone system. **6)**To maintain emergency vehicle services, etc. by the organization. **7)** To work as per the guidelines of the National Urban Health Mission.

Date : 31.01.2026 **Sd/- Joint Director Zone-1,**
Bengaluru **Bengaluru Central City Corporation**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ತಾಲೂಕಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಅಂಕೋಲಾ–ಉತ್ತರಕನ್ನಡ
ಪಿನ್ ಕೋಡ: 581314
ಪೋನ್ ನಂ: 08388–230249 Email:-amoankola-hfws@karnataka.gov.in
ನಂ.ತಾ.ಆ.ಅಂ/745/2025–2026 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 29/01/2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–2027 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ತಾಲೂಕಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಅಂಕೋಲಾ (ಜಿ॥ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ) ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಾಹ್ಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ'/ ನಾನ್–ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08388–230249 ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರ: ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ನಾನ್–ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು, ಪೂರೈಸಬೇಕಾದ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' / ನಾನ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸೇವೆಯ ನೌಕರರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 20, ಒಟ್ಟೂ ಟೆಂಡರ ಮೊತ್ತ: 57,85,560.00, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ 2.5%: 1,44,639.00, ಷರಾ:.........
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೇಳಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿ: ವಿವರ: (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: ತಾಆಅಂ/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/745/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–01–2026 (2) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪಾರಂಭಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–01–2026 (3) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–03–2026, ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–03–2026 ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (5) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂಗೀಕಾರ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯ ನಂತರ.
ಮೇಲಿನ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ರಜೆಯೆಂದು ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ತಾಲೂಕಾ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಅಂಕೋಲಾ (ಉ.ಕ.)
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1012/ 25-26 dt. 31.01.2026

ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಜಗಳೂರು–577528 (ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ)
Ph: 08196 227118 Email: ka.jagalur.tp@gmail.com
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಪ.ಪಂ:ಜಗ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/40/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:30–01–2026

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಛೇರಿಯ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ CMIDP ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಏಕ/ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2 ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂಪ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ. **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ:–**
INDENT NO:-DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54652:–
(1) ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಬಿದರಕೆರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ, 12ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಹಣ್ಣಿನ ವ್ಯಾಪರಿ ಮಹಬೂಬ್ ಅಲಿ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ವಿರೂಪಕ್ಷಪ್ಪ ಮನೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಡೆಕ್‌ಸ್ಲಾಬ್, ಮಾಲತಿ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಪಕ್ಕದಿಂದ ಎಸ್.ಕೆ.ಟಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):–100.00
INDENT NO:-DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54653:–
(2) ಪಟ್ಟಣದ 15ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್ ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಮಾಲತಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಖಲಂದರ್ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಇರ್ಫಾನ್ ಮನೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಹೌಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ವೈಭವ ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಇರುವ ಸಿ.ಡಿ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಚರಂಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಡೆಕ್‌ಸ್ಲಾಬ್, ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಕೆರೆಕೋಡಿ ಬಸವಣ್ಣ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಪಟ್ಟಣದ 15ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಡಾ॥ ಚೇತನ್‌ರವರ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಹೌಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣದ 12ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಕೆ.ಗುರುಸಿದ್ಧಾಚಾರಿ ಮನೆ ಮುಂಭಾಗದ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣದ 12ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಮೇಷ್ಟ್ರು ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸರೆಡ್ಡಿ ಮನೆ ಮುಂಭಾಗದ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣದ 17ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಪಂಪ್‌ಹೌಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಶಂಷುದ್ದಿನ್ ರವರ ಮನೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು 15ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಅಲಿ ಮನೆ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಚರಂಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಡೆಕ್‌ಸ್ಲಾಬ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲಿ ಮಸೀದಿ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಕವರಿಂಗ್ ಸ್ಲಾಬ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ
ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):–100.00
(1) ಖಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:16–02–2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ.
(2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:18–02–2026.
(3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:20–02–2026.
(4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗೆ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿದೆ. (5) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ www.jagalurtown.mrc.gov.in ಮತ್ತು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಜಗಳೂರು.
ಸಹಿ/–ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಜಗಳೂರು.
ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/699/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 3 ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ.
ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು: ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಧಾರವಾಡ – 580023. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836–2315225
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836–2315226 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eeknnl3byt@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ಮಬದವಿ–3/ಎ.ಇ–2/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ/2025–26/1958 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–01–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ – (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 3, ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ **4701 M & MI ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ ಅಡಿ** ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು ಹಾಗೂ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: **Flood Control and Flood Management for Tuparihalla Phase-II upto Confluence of Bennihalla from Km 0.00 to Km 90.00**
Work Indent No: KNNL/2024-25/FP/WORK_INDENT2891/Call-2
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: **ರೂ. 135.36 ಕೋಟಿ + ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ**
ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: **ರೂ. 1.36 ಕೋಟಿಗಳು**
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19–02–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17–02–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕಾಫಿ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ನಂ.1, ಡಾ॥ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವೀಧಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001 ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21–02–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಂ.3, ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ **ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರ** ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **9902666423** ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು
ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.3 ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1175/ಅಡ್ವರ್ಟೋರ್/2025–26

Ministry of Civil Aviation
Government of India

सत्यमेव जयते

ऐसा चाहूं राज मैं, जहां मिले सबन को अन्न।
छोट-बड़ो सब सम बसै, रविदास रहे प्रसन्न।।

Remembering Timeless Messages of
Sri Guru Ravidas Ji
on His 649th Birth Anniversary

Renaming of Adampur Airport as

Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Airport, Adampur, Punjab

and Inauguration of

Terminal Building, Halwara Airport, Punjab
(through video conferencing)

by

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

KEY HIGHLIGHTS : HALWARA AIRPORT

- Meets growing regional air travel demand of Malwa region of Punjab
- Sustainable terminal for two lakh passengers annually
- Boosts trade, industry, and local economy
- Equipped for Code C aircraft (A321/B737)

Sunday, 01st February, 2026 | 1545 hrs. | Adampur Airport, Punjab

CBC 03111/15/0013/2526

Adampur Airport

Watch the event live on DD News

Halwara Airport

Bike taxis: Pvt transport associations pressure state to file SLP in SC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations has called on the state government to approach the Supreme Court against the High Court's decision to allow bike taxis to operate in the state.

Last week, the Karnataka High Court allowed bike taxis to operate as commercial transport. The long-standing dispute began in June 2025, with the state government cracking down on the usage of whiteboard bikes for commercial purposes.

"The Motor Vehicle Act clearly states that a 'motor cab' is a vehicle designed for the same commercial transport of passengers. Motorcycles cannot be considered as motor cabs; they do not fit the description in any shape or form. They have no cover, no safety features, and are at a high risk of serious injury or death in the event of an accident," said S Nataraj Sharma, the federation's president.

The Federation has urged the government to file a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court to get a stay order against the High Court's decision. "The government has full power to regulate, restrict or deny licenses in public interest. Therefore, not granting permission to bike taxis cannot be considered unconstitutional. This is a matter of policy and the Supreme Court has held that courts cannot interfere in matters of policy," he said, adding that bike taxis impact the livelihood of auto, bus, and cab drivers who operate within the purview of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Mahadayi project: Central panel questions 'incomplete' proposal

Karnataka asked to submit status of cases pending before SC

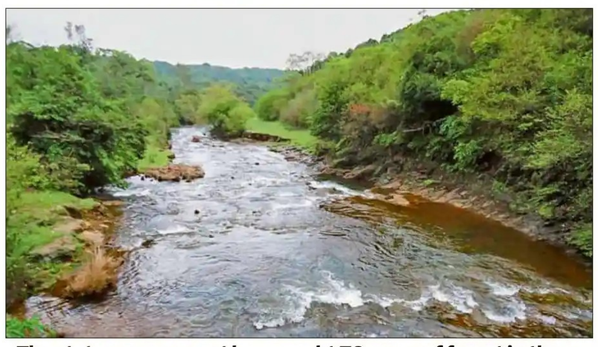
CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government's efforts to lift 2.18 tmcft water from Mahadayi to supply water to Hubballi-Dharwad twin cities and other places, has once again failed to convince the environment authorities, who questioned the lack of details, regarding the rehabilitation of 161 families within the protected area.

The government has sought 70 acres of forest in three villages of Khanapur taluk in Belagavi district.

Much of the land will be utilised for the construction of a diversion dam, jack well and pump house, a substation, pipe and power lines. The water will be pumped to Malaprabha to meet demands in the twin cities, Kundagol town and other enroute villages.

Over the last one year, the proposal has been considered twice by the Regional Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). Previously, the government was asked to provide a wildlife mitigation plan as the forest being diverted hosts tiger, leopard and other animals.



The state government has sought 70 acres of forest in three villages of Khanapur taluk in Belagavi district, for the project to lift 2.18 tmcft water from Mahadayi, to supply water to twin cities of Hubballi-Dharwad and other places. DH FILE PHOTO

Over the last four months, farmers had staged protests pressing for speedy approval of the proposal.

The committee noted that in December 2025, about 400 farmers had gathered in front of Kendriya Sadan in Bengaluru to question the delay in clearing the project.

Biodiversity and rehabilitation

The committee, which met recently, noted that the forest sought by the government was just 29 metres from the boundary of the eco-sensitive zone of the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary.

"The area is fragile in nature from the biodiversity point of view," it said, questioning the chief wildlife warden's conclusion that the project will have minimal impact on biodiversity, including wildlife.

Further, the committee sought details of the plans to rehabilitate 161 families from the sanctuary and asked whether the plan was in consonance with the Forest Rights Act.

It noted that this rehabilitation was a key component of the biodiversity and wildlife conservation plan vetted by the chief wildlife warden.

"Neither any detailed relocation plan nor documents regarding willingness of the villagers to relocate was submitted by the state government," it said, noting that the proposal was "incomplete".

Further, the state government was also asked to submit the status of all the cases against the project pending before the Supreme Court.

Tumakuru Rural PSI in Lokayukta net for accepting Rs 40k bribe

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a pre-dawn operation on Saturday, the Lokayukta police arrested a Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) attached to the Tumakuru Rural police station for allegedly accepting a bribe to release a seized vehicle.

The accused officer, Chetan Kumar S S, was caught in a trap following a complaint filed by Nagesh S K, a resident of Nagadevanahalli, Bengaluru.

According to Lokayukta officials, the complainant's car had been detained at the Tumakuru Rural police station. PSI Chetan Kumar allegedly demanded Rs 5 lakh to facilitate the release of the vehicle to its owner. After negotiations, the officer reportedly agreed to accept an initial installment.

Seeking to catch the officer red-handed, the Lokayukta police, under the supervision of the Superintendent of Police (KLA Tumakuru), laid a trap near Kyatsandra on Friday night.

In an attempt to evade direct suspicion, the PSI reportedly instructed the complainant to hand over Rs 40,000 to a staff member at a local hotel near Kyatsandra. As the cash changed hands, Lokayukta sleuths swooped in and detained the hotel staffer.

PSI Chetan Kumar S S

Upon interrogation, the staff member confessed to receiving the money on behalf of the PSI. Following this lead, the police moved in to take Chetan Kumar into custody in the early hours of Saturday.

A case has been registered under Section 7(a) of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act. The operation was led by DySP Manjunath and assisted by DySPs Santhosh and Raju, and PIs Suresh and Mohammed Saleem.

Rice mills forced to shut as farmers hoard paddy, prices soar

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

Hoarding of paddy by big farmers and a steep rise in its price have dealt a blow to rice mills, which are forced to shut down owing to a lack of raw material.

Farmers have stocked paddy after harvesting, anticipating better prices as the Tungabhadra Irrigation Consultative Committee has stopped releasing water for the second crop from the Tungabhadra dam following work to replace its 32 crest gates. Hence, farmers have not grown rabi paddy.

Paddy is grown on around 6 lakh acres of agricultural land in both right and left Tungabhadra canals of Raichur, Ballari, Koppal and Vijayanagar districts, which are known as the 'rice bowl of Karnataka'.

Paddy yield has also reduced due to floods and heavy rain last year, apart from diseases and pests.

Big farmers tend to hoard crops, as most of them have built warehouses by availing NABARD subsidy over the last few years under the central government scheme. Attributing the price rise to this tendency, farmer leader Chamarasa Malipatil said big farmers are also hoarding paddy of other farmers on a rental basis, he added.

Rice mill owners claimed that around 18 lakh tonnes of paddy are produced in one season, generating a turnover of more than Rs 3,000 crore in four districts. They claimed that hoarding of half the crop grown in the region by farmers has led to a steep rise in the price of Sona Masoori paddy from Rs 1,500 per bag weighing 75kg in November to Rs 1,900 per bag at present.

The price of high-quality RNR variety paddy has also jumped from Rs 1,800 to Rs 2,300 per bag during the last three months.

Therefore, rice mill owners claimed that they are left with no choice but to suspend processing of paddy. They also claimed that retail merchants will not buy the rice at increased rates till their available stock is exhausted. Therefore, the rise in the paddy rate will have to be borne by the rice millers.

"The arrival of paddy in the market has reduced considerably due to hoarding by big farmers. Therefore, we are waiting for paddy from Telangana, where harvesting of the second crop will begin in March. Paddy is being grown on 60% of the agricultural land in neighbouring Telangana as it has witnessed tremendous growth in irrigation during the last decade after the formation of a separate state," said Rice Mill Owners Association secretary Gururaj Shetty, who owns two mills in Karatagi.

Rice millers claimed that it will take at least one month for retail prices of rice to rise after merchants resort to fresh purchases once their old stock is exhausted.

They also said farmers have resorted to cultivation of hybrid variety paddy by using high levels of fertilisers that will yield crops in a short duration of 3-4 months.

"There has been a qualitative and quantitative deterioration in paddy production. Due to this, we are finding it difficult to survive as we are not getting a good price for rice in the retail market," said rice miller Sharanappa.

Yaduveer seeks NCB unit in Mysuru after drug lab bust

MYSURU, DHNS4: Following the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) raid on an industrial unit in Hebbal Industrial Area, Mysuru MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar has demanded that a permanent NCB unit be set up in the city to curb drug-related activities.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Yaduveer said the Narcotics Control Bureauofficials had officially confirmed that the premises raided on Wednesday housed a clandestine drug manufacturing lab. He added that the agency had busted a major interstate drug trafficking syndicate.

"At this juncture, there should be an inquiry by an outside agency to find out why City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar and Home Minister G Parameshwara gave incorrect information earlier, stating that the Narcotics Control Bureau had only visited for verification and found no drugs or raw materials," Yaduveer said.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Corrigendum no-1 dt: 29.01.2026

Sl. No. 1,In EPC Agreement Note under Annexure-II (Schedule-A) has been modified and uploaded in the documents attached to NIT No. JBP-PROJECT-EPC-2025-02 dated **08.01.2026**, **Sl.No.2**, Replies to the Pre-Bid Queries raised by bidders during the Pre-Bid Meeting held on **22.01.2026** have been uploaded on **IREPS**. **Note:** Rest items shall remain same and unaltered. **(Sd.)**

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Project)
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

Kottur triple murder case: Bodies found buried in house

KOTTURU (VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT), DHNS

The young man arrested on suspicion of murdering his parents and younger sister had buried their bodies in a single pit at his house in Lal Bahadur Shastri Layout in the town.

Akshay Kumar, who was arrested by the Bengaluru police, was on Saturday taken to his house, where he directed the police to the spot where he had buried the bodies of his father Bheemraj (48), mother Jayamma (44), and sister Amrutha (18).

"All three bodies were recovered from a single pit," Superintendent of Police S Jahnavi said.

However, the police are yet to determine how they were killed, as well as the motive behind the crime. "The postmortem will reveal when they were killed. As of now, the Tilak Nagar police in Bengaluru are leading the investigation. Once they hand over the probe to us, we will begin investigating in Kottur," Jahnavi said.

Police sources suspect that the trio may have been killed on January 27.

Akshay Kumar had earlier filed a complaint at the Tilak Nagar police station in Bengaluru, claiming that his parents and sister had gone missing. However, the police suspected foul play and launched a probe, which led them to conclude that the three had been killed.

"An FIR was filed at the Tilak Nagar police station on Friday, which mentions two names. Only a detailed probe will uncover the truth," Jahnavi said.

Meanwhile, the bodies of the three victims were handed over to their relatives.

Akshay Kumar, on the other hand, was taken back to Bengaluru, where he is likely to be produced before a court.

Police bust land grab racket; 200 suspects chargesheeted

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS:

The district police have identified 25 cases pertaining to land grabbing by creating fake landowners through duplicate Aadhaar cards in the district.

Laxman Nimbargi

Addressing a press conference on Saturday, district superintendent of police Laxman Nimbargi said a total of 27 cases were investigated between 2022 and 2024.

Of these, charge sheets were submitted in court against 200 suspects in 25 cases. A total of 158 acres and 12 guntas of land in addition to 9 non-agricultural land had been returned to the owners, the SP said. 'B' report had been submitted in the remaining two cases, he said.

Most of the suspects are commission agents involved in land deals or bond writers working in the offices of the sub-registrars.

They would collate information about land parcels up for sale, their owners and the locations of such land. The suspects would target owners of land who are elderly or those living alone in the villages.

The offenders would also identify poor people and collect their Aadhaar cards by promising them money. The next step was to replace the names of the poor landless people with that of the landowners in the Aadhaar cards. The fabricated cards would them be used to usurp the land of the targeted owners.

Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department
Govt. of Jharkhand
Office of the Deputy Director, Palamu Tiger Project, North Division, Medininagar
Office address: Medininagar, District- Palamu, Jharkhand- 822101

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

RFP No.: 01/2025-26

Notice inviting Request for Proposal (RFP) from competent and experienced persons/ firms/ organizations for providing Architectural Consultancy Services only for the construction of "Tiger Safari & Ancillary Work" at Putuagarh, near Barwadih, North Division, Palamau Tiger Project, Jharkhand, through Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method.

Name of the work	Earnest money deposit (Rs).	Bid processing fee	Period of completion
Architectural consultancy services for Preparing Master Plan of 'Tiger Safari & Ancillary' at Putuagarh, North Division, Palamau Tiger Reserve, Jharkhand	Rs. 50,000/- (Rs Fifty thousand only)	Rs. 5,000/- (Rs Five Thousand only)	12 months (Twelve months)

(i)	Sale of Bid Document Start Date	:	From: 31/01/2026,11:00 hrs
(ii)	Sale of Bid Document End Date	:	Up to: 02/03/2026, 17:00 hrs
(iii)	Offline submission of technical proposal and financial proposal ends on	:	Up to: 02/03/2026,17:00 hrs
(iv)	Opening of tender offline (Technical proposal only)	:	On 06/03/2026 at 12:00 hrs
(v)	Date of opening of financial proposal	:	After the result of Technical Bid

Note:
- Tender document including terms & conditions can be downloaded from https://forest.jharkhand.gov.in/ & https://www.palamautigerreserve.in/
- The bid will be received at the office of undersigned during office hour.
- For any query/clarifications, please contact – dfocorearea@gmail.com

PR 372081 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes(25-26).D

Deputy Director,
Palamu Tiger Project, North Division,
Medininagar, Jharkhand.

Rail Land Development Authority
(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Konnectus Tower-II, DMRC Building,
Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi-110002

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER
(RFP Notice No. RLDA/2026/RFP/CD/12 of 2026 dated 16.01.2026)

GRANT OF LEASE FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAY LAND PARCEL 0.63 Acre ADJACENT TO NH-69 (KADAPA CHITTOOR HIGHROAD)-Plot A IN THE VICINITY OF CHITTOOR RAILWAY STATION FOR 60 YEARS

Site Description	Built-Up Area	Bid Security	Reserve Price in terms of NPV
Lease for Commercial Development of approx. 0.63 Acre of Railway land adjacent to NH-69 (Kadapa Chittor Highroad) and on the way to Chittoor Railway Station, Chittoor of Guntakal Division of South Central Railway for a Lease Period of 60 Years.	4780 Sqm.	Rs. 35 Lakh	Rs. 14.44 Crore

Online & Offline Pre-bid Meeting: 04.02.2026 at 11:30 Hrs.
(Online & Offline Pre-bid Meeting details to be obtained from Manager/Project/Expert/SC/RLDA)
Last Date of Submission of e-bid Online: 24.02.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs.

For further details of the project, please visit our website **https://rlda.indianrailways.gov.in** or on e-procurement portal **https://tenderwizard.in/RLDA** under the heading **'e-tender'.**

For any clarifications, may please contact: -

CPM/ Secunderabad M: 6305489280 rorldasc@gmal.com	JGM/Project/ Secunderabad M: 9440467999 ksraorlda@gmail.com	Manager/Project/ Expert/SC/RLDA M: 7337550024 rorldasc@gmail.com	Consultant: M/s E&Y Sh. Jyoti Ranjan Jena M: 9650075233 jyotiranjan.jena@in.ey.com	For e-bid queries Mr. Suraj Singh M: 95996 53865 suraj@etenderwizard.com

Note:- Any Corrigendum or Addendum shall be published only on above mentioned websites **JGM/Tender/Expert, M: 9711305031**

ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಎ ಎಸ್ ಸಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ (ದ) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
PM SHRI

PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA ASC CENTRE(S), BENGALURU
Website: ascbangalore.kvs.ac.in, Email: kvascbgr@gmail.com, Phone:08029902033

AUCTION NOTICE: Open auction is invited from interested bidders for the auction as detailed below :

ITEMS FOR AUCTION: 1) Condemned computers & Peripherals
2) Condemned work experience items (Electrical, machines etc)

DATE OF AUCTION: 26/02/2026 **TIME:** 11 AM

VENUE: Kendriya Vidyalaya ASC Centre, No 1 Victoria Road, Opposite Life Style, Vivek Nagar (Post), Pin-560047.

The principal reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

PRINCIPAL
KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA ASC CENTRE

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MADURAI DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE NO: U-E-OT-2026-01 dated 30.01.26

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Service /Madurai, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-TENDER for the following work.

The prospective tenderers/bidders will be able to submit their offers online & upto 14:00 hrs. on **23.02.2026** which is the closing time of the tender. Submission of offers manually is not permissible and manual offers if any, received even within the closing time of the tender, will be summarily rejected.

S. No.	Tender No & Name of the Work	App. Tender Value in ₹	Bid Security in ₹	Period of Completion
1.	**U-E-OT-2026-01-01**: Madurai Division: Provision of track machine siding at 21 stations and Provision of track machine siding at SDN and MNM stations - Power supply and Lighting arrangements	1,66,81,394	2,33,400	6 months
2.	**U-E-OT-2026-01-02**: MDU Division (a). Provision of FOB and raising of RLPF to HLPF at SMDM & SDNR stations, (b). Raising of platforms to High level at 18 stations (MES, VDP, EKN, BJM, APK, KZB, KZY, PCO, AYVN, KCHV, KTYR, AWT, CTPE, MC, MPA, AYV, TML & KTHY) stations.- Power supply arrangements, wiring and installations	51,96,148	1,03,900	6 months

Time & Date of closing: 14:00 & 23.02.2026.

For further details, log on to website at **http://www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Service
Southern Railway, Madurai -16.

BEYOND BARS

Mysuru jail's community radio frees inmates of stress & distress

SHILPA P
MYSURU, DHNS

"Namaskara neev keltha idira Namma Mysuru Radio... namma hemme.. naanu nimma preethiya RJ Pradeep Kannadiga."

This audio-visual clip of Mysuru central jail inmate Pradeep Kumar, extending Republic Day wishes on the prison community radio, shared by DGP (Prisons and Correctional Services) Alok Kumar on the social platform X, received a huge response.

Within the prison walls, away from families and contact with the outside world, inmates find hope and joy in such activities under the 'Parivartana' programme.

The radio is managed by trained inmates who have turned RJs. It is meant for entertainment, education and information. Radios are installed at all barracks, kitchen and workplaces of the jail.

Inmates listen to songs and news updates. Jail officials use it to communicate important information, create awareness and sensitise prisoners to several aspects.

They get resource persons - psychiatrists and counsellors - to deliver talks, provide counselling, lift inmates' moods and prevent depression from setting in. They attempt to reform mindsets, inspire and motivate inmates to a positive life. They are also wished on their birthdays.

Superintendent of Mysuru central prison V Sheshumurthy said, "With encouragement, support and innovative ideas of DG Alok Kumar, correctional activities are undertaken in all prisons of the state. This radio, which began in 2019, has now been revamped and utilised more effectively. It begins with prayers at 7 am and goes on till 1.30 pm. It again functions from 4 pm to 6.30 pm".

RJ Pradeep Kumar at Mysuru Central Prison. DH PHOTO

RJ Pradeep, a native of Haropura in Nanjangud taluk, Mysuru district, is happy to hear about the response to his clip. He has been in jail for 4 years now (including 2 years as an undertrial). He has been convicted to 25 years' imprisonment in a Pocso case. Pradeep said, "Before I entered prison, I was scared. With the support of the jail superintendent and staff, I got an opportunity to be part of 'Parivartana' activities".

The Mysuru prison and its inmates are 'Atma Nirbhar' - self-dependent in several ways. They weave and stitch their own cotton clothes. They make their own carpets, blankets and share them with other prisons, based on need.

TRACKING TRAGIC END: Probe in realty tycoon's death picks up pace; SIT formed, samples sent for forensic exam

C J Roy had no threats, enemies, claims brother

BENGALURU, DHNS

A day after the unnatural death of C J Roy, founder and chairman of Confident Group, the city police formed a special investigation team (SIT) for the case.

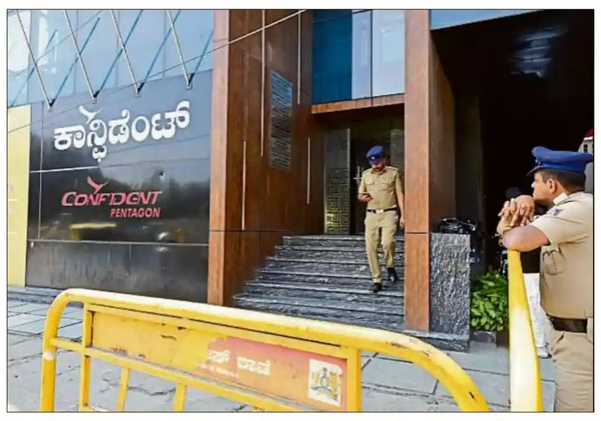
He was found dead at his office. Roy had shot himself with a pistol.

A press release from city police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said the case, registered as unnatural death report at Ashok Nagar station under Section 194 (3) (4) of BNSS, has been transferred to SIT.

The SIT is headed by joint commissioner of police (west) C Vamshi Krishna, while Lokesh Jagalasar, deputy commissioner of police (south) will be the chief investigation officer.

Senior officers from the central and special divisions will be part of the team. The SIT has been empowered to induct additional officers and deploy resources as required.

All officers concerned have been directed to extend full cooperation to ensure a lawful, prompt and effective investigation. All aspects of the case will be thoroughly examined, the commissioner said.



Police personnel guard the office of Confident Group, a day after the death of its founder and chairman C J Roy, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Roy's brother, C J Babu, on Saturday told reporters that Roy had no known enemies, faced no threats and was not under depression.

Babu said the IT raids were conducted on Jan 28, 29 and 30, and confirmed that IRS officer Krishna Prasad from Kochi was leading the operation on Roy's office premises.

"He had no threats and no enemies. Roy was not under depression," Babu said, acknowledging that Roy was under severe pressure due to IT proceedings.

Babu said Roy called him twice at around 10.40 am on Friday, saying he was under pressure from Income Tax officials and urging him to return immediately.

"I was in Phuket at the time. Let truth come out from a thorough investigation," he said.

The Ashoknagar police had seized two mobile phones belonging to Roy as part of the investigation.

Based on a complaint filed by T A Joseph, MD of Confident Group, police had registered an UDR and said no suicide note was recovered from the spot. All evidences were handed over to SIT on Saturday.

Senior police officials said an investigation team also seized Roy's licensed NP bore 0.25 pistol, which has been sent to the forensic laboratory for ballistic examination.

Preliminary findings indicated that Roy placed the gun against his chest and pulled the trigger. The shot was fired from very close range, with forensic examination showing that the bullet penetrated his chest and entered the body.

The postmortem was conducted at Bowring hospital and the body was handed over to the family for final rites.

Roy locked cabin door from inside, told security not to let anyone in

BENGALURU, DHNS: The office cabin of C J Roy was found locked from inside according to a complaint filed by the company's managing director T A Joseph.

Joseph, in a written complaint to Ashoknagar police, said Roy arrived at the Confident Group office on Langford Road around 3 pm on January 30, to give a statement before officials of the Income Tax department.

Broken open since there was no response even after 10 minutes

He went to his cabin. Later, Roy told Joseph that he wished to speak to his mother (on the phone), following which Joseph stepped out and the door was locked from inside.

About 10 minutes later, Joseph returned, but was told by security personnel that Roy had instructed them not to allow anyone inside the cabin.

When there was no response to repeated knocks even after another 10 minutes, panic began to spread. The door was subsequently broken open by Joseph, with the help of security personnel.

Roy was found seated on his chair with bloodstains on his shirt and his body.

An ambulance was immediately called, but the medical staff who arrived found no pulse in him.

He was rushed to Narayana Hospital in HSR Layout, where doctors at the emergency ward declared him dead.

Later, Joseph approached the police and explained the incident in a complaint to them. He demanded a thorough probe into the death of Roy.

Congress, CPM in Kerala demand comprehensive probe

BJP rules out chances of I-T raid pressure

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

C J Roy

The death of Confident Group chairman C J Roy has triggered a slew of rumours linking it to the upcoming elections in Kerala.

The Congress and CPM have sought a detailed probe into the alleged pressure exerted on him by Income Tax officials. The BJP has maintained that the Income Tax raids were routine procedures.

Roy was believed to be among key election fund contributors to parties in Kerala due to his business interests in the state. For that reason, Congress and CPM camps allegedly suspect that he was yet another victim of the BJP-led government at the Centre, exerting pressure on business groups using central agencies for political purposes.

Confident Group's projects across Kerala, Roy's connections with Congress leaders, and the aggressive campaigns in Kerala by White Gold, a business concern owned by Roy's brother C J Babu, are cited by real estate industry sources as reasons for Roy's interest in Kerala elections.

Congress legislature party leader V D Satheesan and CPM state secretary M V Govindan sought a comprehensive probe into Roy's death in the wake of allegations of pressure from Central agencies.

BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar, also an industrialist based in Bengaluru, said I-T raids were quite common in real estate firms and, therefore, could not be the reason for Roy ending his life.

Recently, there were allegations that the decision of the Twenty20 political forum, promoted by Kitex Group managing director Sabu M Jacob, to join hands with BJP came after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued a notice to the company. Sabu denied the allegation, admitting that the notice was part of routine procedures.

According to sources in the real estate sector, central agencies would naturally be under pressure from political leadership to tighten vigil over firms that could fund opposition parties as polls approach. When the Congress was in power at the Centre, it too followed similar practices, the source said.

"Since Congress is now in power in Karnataka, the party in Kerala could be tapping resources from business concerns in Karnataka. The Congress also has a strong network in Gulf countries, which makes it easier for the party to route funds," an NRI businessman-preferring anonymous, said.

The Kerala Assembly polls are crucial for the Congress to return to power after ten years. The BJP is also trying to open its account in the state and prevent a Congress victory.

Home minister directs police to probe circumstances

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Saturday said the death of Confident Group entrepreneur C J Roy needs to be examined against the backdrop of an Income Tax (I-T) raid conducted on the company in December.

Speaking to reporters here, Parameshwara said that as per the rules, a charge sheet must be filed within 60 days of an Income Tax raid, and the process had to be finalised by February 4.

Parameshwara

Roy had reportedly been summoned in this connection.

Parameshwara said Roy returned from Dubai three days ago and visited his office, where he sought details from officials regarding the proceedings.

After interacting with them, Roy reportedly said he would step inside for five minutes, but did not return even after 20 minutes. When the door was broken open, he was found dead.

Detailed probe

"Several aspects need to be looked into - what happened before the incident and what led him to take the extreme step. I have instructed the police officers to conduct a detailed investigation. Once the report is submitted, further decisions will be taken," he said.

Responding to the allegations of possible harassment following the Income Tax raids, the Home Minister said that angle has not yet been probed.

"We have not examined the IT harassment angle so far. If the investigation throws up such details, it will be looked into," the home minister said.

Bullet recovered, no other wounds on body, say doctors

Fingers sent to forensics to check if Roy shot himself

BENGALURU, DHNS

Doctors recovered a 6.35-mm bullet from C J Roy's body on Saturday. The postmortem revealed that the impact of the bullet was so high that it pierced through the left side of his chest, damaged the left lobe of the lungs, punctured the diaphragm, besides damaging the stomach, doctors said.

"It is a clear case of death due to bullet injury. The bullet had almost reached the ribs. We suspect that the lungs collapsed, leading to immediate death," Dr Aravind, medical superintendent of Bowring Hospital, told *DH*.

The body was brought to Bowring Hospital late on Friday evening, Aravind noted and said all procedures were completed by Saturday morning. However, sources said that the family might collect the body only on Sunday.

People gather outside Bowring Hospital in Bengaluru, where the post mortem of C J Roy's body was conducted, in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTOS/B K JANARDHAN

Apart from the bullet wound, no other wounds were seen, doctors said.

They have collected Roy's blood samples and his fingers, to be sent to the forensic sciences lab.

According to senior forensic experts, it is important to study the palm of the victim to ascertain if he shot himself.

"If the victim has shot himself, some gunpowder residue is present on his fingers and it is important to examine this. As a first step, we do an X Ray to ascertain if the bullet is in the body," a senior forensic expert said. A retired IPS officer said that in such incidents, some impression of the nozzle of the gun would have been left on the skin.

"Usually, when a person shoots himself, it is at point blank range. Hence, the entry will will be big and impact huge. In a majority of the cases, the person dies immediately," the officer said.

"Since the Congress is now in power in Karnataka, the party in Kerala could be tapping resources from business concerns in Karnataka. The Congress also has a strong network in Gulf countries, which makes it easier for the party to route funds."
NRI BUSINESSMAN
On condition of anonymity

"If the victim has shot himself, some gunpowder residue is present on his fingers and it is important to examine this. As a first step, we do an X Ray to ascertain if the bullet is in the body."
SENIOR FORENSIC EXPERT

"Several aspects need to be looked into - what happened before the incident and what led him to take the extreme step."
G PARAMESHWARA
Home Minister

Forensic indicators point to close-range firing; SIT awaits FSL report

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team that examined the crime scene of the death of C J Roy is expected to submit its report to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) within the next couple of days.

During the inspection, the forensic experts noted multiple indicators consistent with close-range firing, including the position of the body and firearm, injury characteristics and residue behaviour at the spot. While the firearm licence has been confirmed at a preliminary stage, ownership details and related documentation will be independently verified by the investigating agency, officials said.

Explaining the forensic process, retired ballistic expert B C Ravindra said injury patterns and internal damage will be among the key indicators assessed at the scene and during laboratory analysis.

"Entry wound features and internal tissue damage are critical indicators. SOCO observations help reconstruct the firing position, while FSL analysis scientifically determines firing distance and trajectory," he said.

As a part of the probe, senior police officers on Saturday recorded statements from Roy's family members, who returned from abroad to receive the body. Meanwhile, the Income Tax Department officials, who had conducted searches as part of an ongoing operation, returned to Kerala after formally informing the local police, sources said.

Deeply connected to Kannada

Confident group chief C J Roy was deeply connected to the Kannada language and culture and had named a park inside his farmhouse on Bannerghatta Road after Dr Rajkumar.
He was extremely passionate about Kannada and had a special love for trees and nature, said Muniraju, a tent house owner. Muniraju was in close contact with Roy as he would regularly install tents for many occasions in the farmhouse.

Engineering colleges shocked to find students 'interning at bars, gyms'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Students of some engineering colleges in the state, if data on the app rolled out by the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) is to be believed, would appear to be interning at bars, restaurants, vacant sites, and even gymnasiums.

The app was launched by the VTU to ensure students did not submit fake internship certificates. It is compulsory for students to share the location of companies where they are interning on the app, the credentials of which VTU can subsequently verify. However, these strictures appear not to have deterred some students from defrauding colleges.

S VIDYASHANKAR
Vice-Chancellor, VTU
"Submission of fake internship certificates won't work. We will verify everything. Students must display their cleverness in their work, not in trying to defraud the college and university.

VTU cited instances of students claiming to be interning at companies that have either shut down or don't exist. Warning students not to deceive the university, a senior official said, "We rolled out a comprehensive internship portal this year specifically to catch such students. If they think they can misuse technology to deceive the university, they are deluding themselves."

Expressing incredulity over students doing internship at bars and restaurants, the official said, "It makes sense for students of hotel management to intern at such places, not engineering students."

Internship portal

VTU launched a comprehensive internship portal, registration on which is mandatory for students of all 220 affiliate colleges. Internship coordinators have been appointed at each college to assist students in finding internship opportunities.
Students' attempts to deceive their colleges came to light when the VTU's software verified the authenticity of their applications.
Students are slated to start their internship this year from February 2, with 14,000 companies offering internships to 82,000 students.

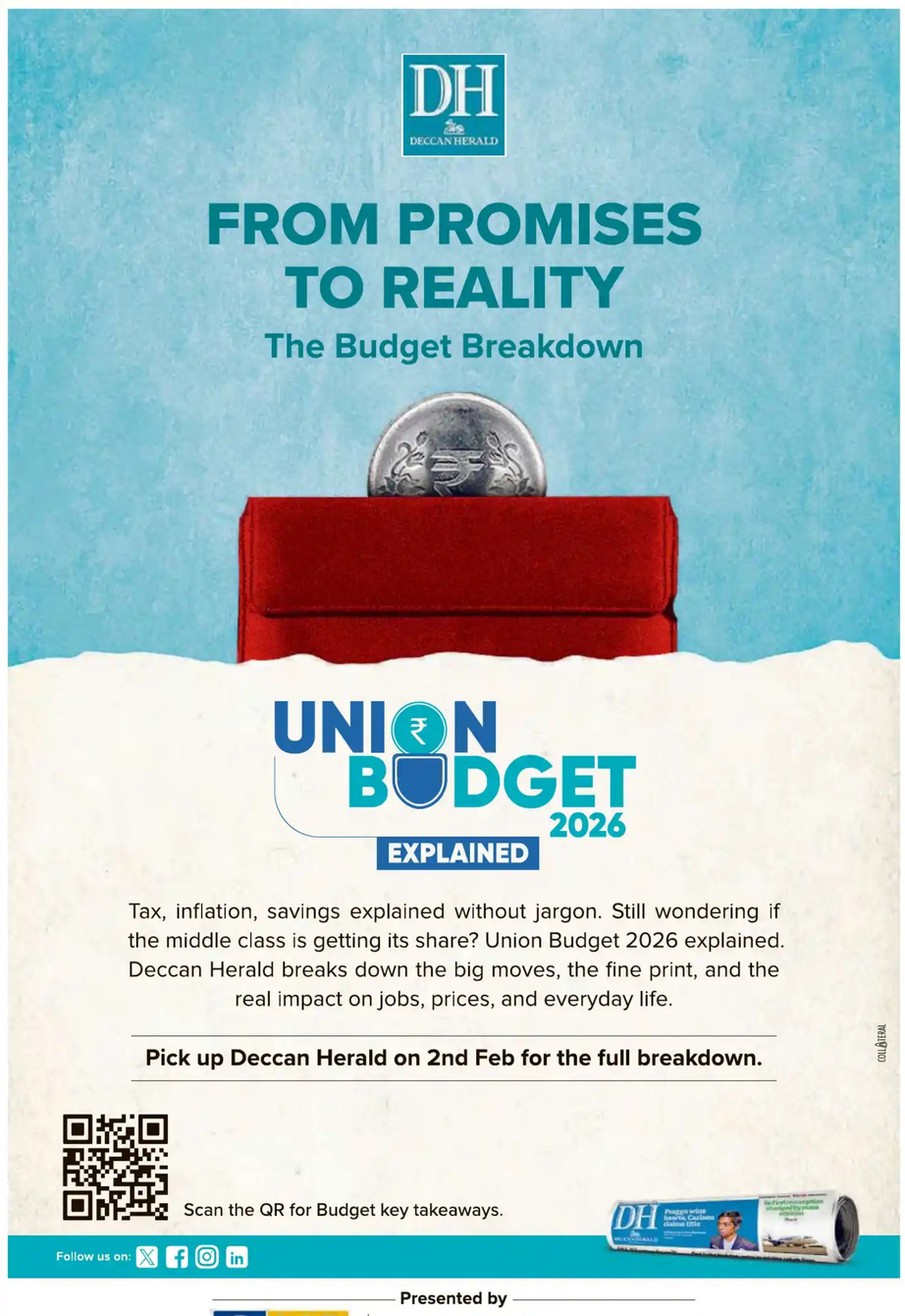
Caught on the app

- **A student** sought permission to pursue an internship at a company that shut shop a year ago
- **The address** of the company listed by a student turned out to be that of a bar and restaurant in Bengaluru
- **One student** led the inspection team to a salon
- **A student** who claimed to have completed his internship at a company in Denmark turned out to have stayed in Bengaluru

INNOVATE KARNATAKA
K-tech

Request for Proposal (RFP)

RFP NOTICE No: ITBTST/2025-26/SE0039/CALL-2
The Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT and Bt, is inviting proposals for the **"Selection of Implementation partners for Digital Art Centers (DAC) 2.0 initiative in Karnataka"** In this regard, KITS invites proposals from qualified agencies in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP).
Interested agencies are required to download the soft copy of the Request for Proposals and upload their proposal (in PDF format) on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** using the bidder's Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).
Any notices or information related to this Request for Proposals in the future will be available exclusively on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
The application period starts on 01-02-2026 and ends on 02-03-2026, at 4:00 P.M. Please refer to the Request for Proposals document for eligibility criteria and other conditions.
Sd/-
Managing Director
KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-22231008
E-mail: aenain.kits@gmail.com
DIPR/CP/5330/AKAR/2025-26


DH
DECCAN HERALD
FROM PROMISES TO REALITY
The Budget Breakdown
UNION BUDGET 2026
EXPLAINED
Tax, inflation, savings explained without jargon. Still wondering if the middle class is getting its share? Union Budget 2026 explained. Deccan Herald breaks down the big moves, the fine print, and the real impact on jobs, prices, and everyday life.
Pick up Deccan Herald on 2nd Feb for the full breakdown.
Scan the QR for Budget key takeaways.
Follow us on:
Presented by
LIC
Bank of Maharashtra
Associate Partners
3min
CITROËN
KESARI
pulsar DEFINITELY DARING

LICENCE TO LOOT? BJP seeks minister's resignation over 'scam'; Cong cornered

Excise dept: State's fiscal lifeline that's a 'den of corruption'

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS:

The alleged excise scam in the state has put the Siddaramaiah government in a tight spot.

Even as the ruling party is bracing for a political showdown with BJP in the ongoing legislature session over the repeal of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), BJP's demand for Excise Minister R B Timmapur's resignation has shifted focus squarely to allegations of systemic corruption in the excise department - one of the critical revenue-generating arms.

The trigger was the arrest of three excise officials - Jagadeesh Naik, deputy commissioner of excise; K M Thammanna, superintendent of excise; and Lakkappa Gani, an excise constable — by the Lokayukta for allegedly accepting a Rs 25 lakh bribe (part of an Rs 80 lakh demand) to grant a CL-7 liquor and microbrewery licence.

The complainant C Lakshminarayana pointed fingers at the minister and senior officials.

BJP has pegged the 'scam' at Rs 2,500 crore and plans to intensify its agitation in both Houses, starting Monday.

On Friday, Timmapur told the Upper House that he was being "targeted" because he is a Dalit and claimed previous excise ministers too faced "similar allegations".

"It's a conspiracy. If they provide proof, I will resign immediately" he said, waving a pen drive and claiming he had "evidence" against his predecessors. The BJP dared him to disclose the names.

Leader of the Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said, "There's sufficient digital evidence against the minister. There is a monthly card for collecting bribes. You should resign and face the investigation".

The controversy brings to the fore older accusations by the Federation of Wine Merchants Association, Karnataka.

In Nov 2024, Association president S Guruswamy had claimed the newly posted officials openly "admitted" to giving huge bribes of Rs 2 crore for the postings and sought to "recover" the money from licensees.

"A monthly 'hafta' being collected is an open secret," alleged leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka.

The allegations have wider implications as excise is the fiscal lifeline for Karnataka.

In 2025–26, excise target is Rs 40,000 crore—nearly 10% of total receipts and 14% of revenue receipts. The government is under pressure to maximise revenue mobilisation.

Pushing for excise reforms, the finance department constituted the Dr K P Krishnan-led resource mobilisation committee to identify new revenue avenues and reduce overdependence on excise duty.

The annual licence renewal for liqour shops is said to be the biggest source of corruption, peaking during the "June Habba" when bribes are collected (as excise year begins in July).

The annual licence renewal (for liquor shops) is said to be the biggest source of corruption, peaking during the "June Habba" when bribes are collected (as excise year begins in July).

A challan-based, multi-year licence through online automatic licence renewal software, with a 5-year validity, was introduced to reduce human interface. It brought partial relief.

"Technology alone cannot eliminate corruption, a strong political will can," said a finance department official.

With price rationalisation, Karnataka reduced taxes on premium liquor to prevent diversion, smuggling and to boost sales.

The CL-2 retail and CL-9 bar licences had frozen since 1992, despite population growth and rising demand and led to illegal outlets in suburbs.

As old licences were being traded in black market for Rs 2 crore each, the government decided to e-auction 579 defunct licenses hoping to generate Rs 500 to Rs 800 crore. But on Jan 12, 2026, the Dharwad bench stayed the e-auction (till next hearing on Feb 11, 2026).

The wine merchants opposing e-auctions fear small shops losing business and cite that the state-run Mysore Sales International Ltd (MSIL), authorised (in 2009) to open 463 retail liquor outlets, had not been successful.

The excise 'scam' is a fiscal pillar and a political liability for the Siddaramaiah government.

Governor to send Hate Speech Bill to President

'Answer to hatred must be free speech, not dictatorial laws'

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has decided to send the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025 (Karnataka Bill No 79/2025) to the President.

Confirming the development to *DH*, sources in the government said that the governor has raised several objections to the bill, besides citing various judgments on the subject.

The sources added that the governor was of the opinion that the issue needed to be further deliberated upon. Citing a Supreme Court judgement dated November 20, 2025, the governor has pointed to the discretion he enjoys under Article 200.

"I am hereby exercising the powers under Articles 200, 201 and 254 of the Constitution of India to reserve the subject Bill LA No. 79/2025—The Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crime (Prevention) Bill, 2025—for the kind consideration and assent of Her Excellency, the President of India," the governor has said, according to the sources.

The sources said that the issues dealt with in the Bill have been widely discussed in print and electronic media, and 40 representations were received urging the governor to withhold assent.

"There is no doubt that hate speech is harmful to society. But killing freedom in the name of preventing hatred is not the solution. In a free society, the answer to hatred should be free speech and not dictatorial laws. Education, culture and awareness should be used to combat hate speech," the governor observed, the sources said.

He reportedly cited three key constitutional concerns: possible repugnancy with Central laws under Article 254, potential violation of fundamental rights under Articles 14, 19 and 21, and what he described as subjective and draconian executive powers in the proposed legislation.

A major point of concern was the definition of "hate speech" in Section 2(1) of the Bill. It defines hate speech as any expression — spoken, written, visual or electronic — made with the intention of causing harm, disharmony, hostility, hatred or ill-feeling against any person, living or dead, or any group or community. The governor is understood to have expressed apprehension that such a broad definition could lead to ordinary or spontaneous speech being criminalised. He also stressed that police must act impartially and cautiously while exercising powers under the proposed law and suggested that wider consultation with all sections of society would have strengthened the process.

Among the issues flagged were vagueness, overbreadth and the potential chilling effect on free speech under Article 19(1)(a), as well as concerns over proportionality and procedural safeguards under Articles 19 and 21. He emphasised that democracy depends on freedom of expression, respect for differing opinions and open dialogue. The Bill's ambiguities and long-term impact on democratic discourse, he suggested, warrant careful scrutiny by the intellectual community. He further noted that any criminal law must ensure legal certainty so citizens clearly understand what constitutes an offence.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

33rd Death Anniversary

RAYAPPACHARI
D.O.B. 17-3-1920 D.O.D. 1-2-1993
Much Loved & fondly remembered by Children, Grand Children & Great Grand Children

REMEMBRANCE

Wg Cdr (Retd)
JACOB ANTHIKAD
Arrived Sept 1, 1938 - Departed Feb 1, 2015
"You vacated your earthly abode since eleven years; Your absence is marked by a cascade of tears; Your memory is an eternal flame; Which glows at the mention of your name"

12th year Remembrance

Shri Muniseethappa
Class - I Contractor and Proprietor of SAS Enterprises (Dealers of Bharat Petroleum)
Twelve years has passed since you attained his Lotus feet above, each day, each hour, we remembered your untiring, unconditional love.
Wife: Manjula Muniseethappa
Sons: Pradeep and Vivek
Daughter-in-law: Preethi Pradeep
Daughter: Ramya Diwakar
Grand Daughters : Vaishnavi, Ameya Mahanya
Grand Son: Mohak and Family.

SHRADHANJALI
POOJA P. KAMAT
13.04.1957 - 21.01.2026

* Your golden life is an inspiration to our lives.
* Your cherished memories will be our precious treasures.
* Your achievements will ever be an inspiration for our future.
Deeply Loved by:
Pramod, Deepa, Amit, Meera, Rishvi, Rudramsh, Shekhar and Chandrika.

Offensive content against Hindu deities: HC refuses to quash probe against WhatsApp admin

'Reproducing such content in judicial order would itself be inappropriate'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has refused to quash the investigation against a WhatsApp group admin for depicting Hindu deities and certain politicians through obscene and offensive images in the group chat in 2021.

"..the offence under Section 295A of the IPC is met to every word of its ingredient albeit, prima facie," Justice M Nagaprasanna said.

The petitioner, Sirajuddin, a resident of Belthangady taluk of Dakshina Kannada district, challenged the crime registered against him in 2021 at the CEN (Cyber, Economics, Narcotics Crime) police station in Mangaluru for offences under IPC section 295A and Section 67 of Information Technology Act. Section 295A is punishment for outraging the religious feelings of any class of citizens, insulting or attempting to insult the religion or the religious beliefs.

The complainant, K Jayaraj Salian, a resident of Belthangady taluk, claimed to have received a WhatsApp link from an unknown source and he was added to the group upon accessing the link. The group consisted of six administrators and nearly 250 participants. The complainant contended that obscene and offensive images, depicting Hindu deities and certain political figures had been repeatedly circulated in the group.

The petitioner was arrested and was released on bail on February 16, 2021. It was argued that the petitioner was singled out among the other administrators and that the creator of the group was not arrested and no investigation conducted against him. The petitioner contended that the Magistrate cannot take cognizance of the offence under IPC section 295A, as no previous sanction as necessary under CrPC section 196(1), was obtained from any of the competent authorities.

Justice Nagaprasanna noted that prior sanction is required only at the stage of taking cognizance and not required at the stage of registration of the crime or investigation. "The state produced the entire investigation material before this court, a perusal of which contains depictions of Hindu deities in an extraordinarily obscene, demeaning and profane manner. The content is such that reproduction thereof, in a judicial order, would itself be inappropriate. Suffice it to observe that the material on its face has the tendency to outrage religious feelings and disturb communal harmony," Justice Nagaprasanna said, adding that the material on its face has the tendency to outrage religious feelings and disturb communal harmony.

"The matter is still at the stage of investigation. What could be the outcome of the investigation is yet to be known. Therefore, this court cannot now interdict the investigation of an offence of such nature. While this court notes with some concern that the Investigating Officer appears to have blissfully ignored proceeding uniformly against all administrators of the group, if the investigation leads to any member being actively involved in permitting circulation of such pictures, they must be brought to book. At this investigative stage, any further observation at the hands of this court would be unnecessary," the court said.

Nirmala to ...

Budget, From Page 3

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd, said, "FIIs will be looking for indications from the Budget before deciding on their strategy, going forward."

The Economic Survey 2025-26, tabled in Parliament on Thursday, presented a rosy picture of the economy with GDP growth of 7.4% in the current financial year and in the range of 6.8% to 7.2% in 2026-27.

With inflation projected at 3.5% for FY27, the nominal GDP growth can touch 10%. "This augurs well for corporate earnings in FY 27. If the 2026 Budget turns out to be fiscally prudent and growth-oriented, the market will turn resilient. The sharp correction in gold and silver, if it persists, can draw investors away from precious metals to equity," said Vijayakumar.

The real GDP growth looks robust mainly because of the sharp decline in inflation. Nominal GDP growth in the current fiscal year is likely to be lower than expected, which will hurt revenue collection.

"The nominal GDP growth relevant for Budget math is expected at 10.5%-11% with the uptrend in global commodity prices percolating in a higher WPI. A bit slower nominal growth may hurt tax revenues in FY27, requiring better expenditure planning," SBI Research said in a note.

According to SBI Research, the fiscal deficit is expected to be at 4.2% of GDP for FY27. The cost of borrowing from the government is expected at 6.8-7.0% during the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2026.

India backs people of Palestine: PM ahead of Israel visit

Modi, From Page 3

"The Arab world is a part of India's extended neighbourhood, linked by civilisational bonds, people-to-people connections and enduring brotherly ties, as well as a commitment to peace, progress and stability," Modi posted on X, adding: "(I am) Confident that enhanced cooperation in technology, energy, trade and innovation will unlock new opportunities and take the partnership to new heights."

Ahmed Aboul Gheit, the secretary general of the League of Arab States, was with the Arab foreign ministers during the meeting with the prime minister.

They later attended the meeting of the second India-Arab Foreign Ministers, which Jaishankar and his United Arab Emirates counterpart, Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, jointly chaired.

Modi is likely to visit Tel Aviv on an invitation from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the last week of February.

Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, the minister of foreign affairs and expatriates of the Palestinian Authority, was also among the foreign ministers who met the prime minister and attended the conclave hosted by New Delhi on Saturday. She recently suggested that India could play a greater role in mediating between Israel and Palestine, as well as in the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip.

"The situation in Gaza, in particular, has been the focus for the international community. Many of us were present at the Sharm-el-Sheikh Peace Summit in October 2025. This evolved into the UN Security Council Resolution 2803 of November 2025," Jaishankar said in his opening remarks at the conclave with the meeting with the foreign ministers of the League of Arab States member nations.

Sunetra Pawar sworn in as first woman DyCM...

Sunetra, From Page 3

However, Sunetra has been allocated the portfolios of State Excise, Sports and Youth Affairs, Minorities Development and Aukaf.

As of now, Fadnavis will be in charge of the Finance and Planning ministries in the wake of the impending state Budget in the Maharashtra Legislature on March 6.

During the swearing-in, Sunetra was neither a member of the Legislative Assembly nor the Legislative Council.

In six months, she will have to become a member of either of the Houses.

In all likelihood, she will be fielded from Baramati during the bye-elections necessitated by her husband's death.

She would resign as a Rajya Sabha member.

According to sources, one of her sons - Parth or Jay — will be sent to the Rajya Sabha.

Before the swearing-in ceremony, the NCP legislature party met at Vidhan Bhavan complex in Mumbai and unanimously elected her their leader.

The meeting was presided over by NCP working president Praful Patel and the proceedings were conducted by NCP state president Sunil Tatkare.

Veteran NCP leader and former Legislative Assembly speaker Dilip Walse-Patil moved a resolution proposing her name, which was seconded by veteran leader and state food, civil supplies and consumer protection minister Chhagan Bhujbal.

Hours after Sunetra was sworn in as deputy chief minister, a section of senior leaders of the NCP demanded that she be appointed the national president of the party. "Ajit Dada is no more...he was the legislature party leader, deputy chief minister and the NCP national president...it is our wish that Sunetra Vahini should take over all three responsibilities," said Majalgaon MLA Prakash Solanke, who was a close aide of Ajit Pawar. Similar demands were made by several other leaders.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast Feb 01: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	29.2	16.4	00
Bidar	30.2	15.8	00
Vijayapura	30	15	00
Dharwad	30.2	14.8	00
Haveri	29.8	14.2	00
Kalaburagi	31.6	18.7	00
Raichur	30.4	17.4	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	34.2	19.4	00
Karwar	34.6	20	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	34.9	21.8	00

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	28.9	15.4	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29.5	16.1	00
Davangere	30.5	14	00
Hassan	31.3	12.8	00
Mysuru	30.4	14	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	28	NA	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	22.6	6.7	00
Kolkata	26.6	16.6	00
Mumbai	33.4	21.7	00
Chennai	30.3	20.2	00
Pune	30.9	16.4	00
Hyderabad	29.2	18.6	00
Th'puram	34.6	22.4	00

Cong interfering in depts led by Dalit ministers: Chalavadi

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Saturday accused the Congress of meddling in the affairs of departments helmed by Dalit ministers.

Addressing a press conference, he said, "Excise Minister R B Timmapur is claiming that he is being targeted because he is a Dalit. But Lokayukta seized Rs 25 lakh from an excise officer, and there is mention of the minister and his son in audio recordings. While the officials have been jailed, the minister continues in office. If Timmapur is innocent, let him disclose the names of those interfering in the running of his department."

Criticising Timmapur for playing the Dalit card, Chalavadi said, "Corruption has no caste. B Nagendra was targeted when Rs 187 crore was misappropriated. K N Rajanna, known to be blunt, was removed from the Cabinet and also denied the Apex Bank chairman's post. Home Minister G Parameshwara appears to have no clue about his department. Congress is targeting Dalit ministers."

Udupi boat tragedy: Police arrest three persons

UDUPI, DHNS

The police have arrested three persons in connection with the boat tragedy at Kodibengre, which claimed three lives.

According to the police, the arrested have been identified as Suhas Shriyan (23), Sufiyan (20) and Vasu Mendon (52) from Kodi village, Brahmavar taluk.

According to the investigation, the tourist boat overturned due to the alleged negligence and violation of safety norms. The incident occurred on January 26 at 10.45 am.

In a complaint, G Guruprasad from Mysuru said that he, along with 28 others, went on a boating ride with the accused Suhas. The tourists were divided and sent in two separate boats, with 14 persons in one and 15 in the other.

While the complainant and others were boating on the Swarna River near the estuary at Kodibengre village, the boat named 'The Wave Rider' capsized after its operators, Sufiyan and Vasu, allegedly turned the boat sharply to the left in a rash and negligent manner. As a result, all 14 people fell into the water. Among them, Shankarappa (27), Sindhu P (23) and Disha (26) drowned and died. The others narrowly escaped. Based on the complaint, Malpe police had registered a case under Sections 284, 125(a) and 106 of the BNS.

Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar said the investigation revealed that the arrested persons operated the boating activities without obtaining a licence or permission from the Tourism Department.

The boat did not possess any certification to be used for tourist activity. The investigations also revealed that the boat was not suitable for tourist rides and that no safety measures and life jackets were provided to passengers, he said.

The SP said that as the deaths occurred due to negligence, additional sections were invoked, and a case was registered at Kota police station under Sections 284, 125(a), 106, 105, 110, read with 3(5) of the BNS.

The arrested were produced before the court and were remanded in judicial custody.

Four kids among six injured in mysterious blast

HUMNABAD (BIDAR DISTRICT), DHNS: Six people, including four children aged between four and eight, sustained injuries in a mysterious explosion that rocked Molakera village in the taluk on Saturday.

The police have identified the injured as Jabbar Razak (60), Anwar Zameersab (19), Mastan Musa (8), Arzaan Razak (7), Busera Allahuddin (4) and Aareez Razaksab. The condition of Jabbar and Anwar is said to be critical. Jabbar was shifted to Hyderabad, while Anwar was rushed to Solapur. The four children are said to be recovering at BRIMS hospital in Bidar.

According to eyewitnesses, a powerful explosion rocked the village between 8.30 am and 9 am. "The explosion that occurred in front of a house was so powerful that the entire village heard the deafening sound. We saw a few children and two men lying in a pool of blood at the blast site. We called for ambulances and rushed the injured to the hospital. The police soon came to the spot and barricaded the area."

IGP Shanthkumar Sinha and SP Pradeep Gunti visited the spot. According to a preliminary investigation, a resident of the village had stored paint and some chemicals in a barrel. The explosion occurred while the same was being shifted out of the house. The exact cause of the explosion will be known after a thorough probe, the SP said. Meanwhile, expressing shock over the incident, District Minister Eshwar Khandre ordered a detailed probe into it.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer-2,
No.39, Shanthi Gruha, Bharath Scouts & Guides Building, 4th Floor,
Palace Road, Bengaluru-560001.

No.: Bengaluru/SLAO-2/932/2025-26 Date:27.01.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Government has issued Preliminary Notification as per No.: CI 117 SPQ 2025 Dated 09-10-2025, as per State Gazette Publication dated 14.10.2025, under K.I.A.D. Act 1966 Sec 28(1) for acquiring **Total 445-10 A/G, Kharabu 61-12 A/G, Remaining 383-38 A/G of lands for Industrial Development in Hosahudya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bagepalli Taluk, Chikkaballapura District.** Notice will be issued to the concerned Khatedars as per Sec 28(2).

Even then Khatedars/Anubhavadhars who have not received the Notice or other Interested persons, if they have any objections related to the Acquisition of these lands, it is informed that objections should be submitted in writing with appropriate documents either in person or through a person authorised on their behalf within 30 days to Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer -2, No. 39, Shanti Gruha, Bharat Scouts and Guides Building, 4th Floor, Palace Road, Bengaluru - 560001. Failing which it will be considered that there are no objections to the Land Acquisition Process and further action will be taken as per law.

Details of Survey Numbers of lands being acquired

Sl. No.	Name of Khatedars /Anubhavdar	Survey No.	Acquisition Area		
			Ainu A-G	Kharabu A-G	Remaining A-G
1	2	3	4	5	6
Village: Hosahudya Hobli: Kasaba Taluk: Bagepalli District: Chikkaballapura					
1.	G. Swathi W/o D.R. Suresh	189/1	2-35	-	2-35
2.	D.R. Suresh S/o D.S. Ramachandra	189/2	1-00	-	1-00
3.	Thimmappa S/o Late Mopureddy, Sarojamma D/o Late Mopureddy, Sujathamma D/o Late Mopureddy, Suguna D/o Late Mopureddy, Vinod S/o Amaranarayana Reddy, Above Joint	189/3	2-35	-	2-35
4.	H.N. Ramireddy S/o Nanjappa	189/4	1-36	0-01	1-35
5.	H.N. Byrareddy	189/5	1-11	0-05	1-06
6.	H.A. Ashwathappa S/o Adeppa, Prameelamma W/o Late K.N. Adinarayanappa	190	3-08	0-09	2-39
7.	Sarkari Banjaru, A.K. Adeppa S/o Chikkanarayanappa, Sriramachandrappa S/o Chikkanarayanappa, Narasimhappa S/o Narayanappa, Narasimhappa S/o Narayanappa, Ademma W/o Late Adimurthappa Urf A.K. Adimurthy	191	23-01	3-37	19-04
8.	Saraswathamma W/o R. Lakkappa	192/1	4-10	0-08	4-02
9.	V. Venkatashivareddy S/o Late N. Venkatamareddy	192/2	1-01	0-01	1-00
10.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	232/1	1-05	0-07	0-38
11.	Chikkadeppa	232/2	1-08	0-07	1-01
12.	H.N. Narasimhamurthy S/o Late Narasimhappa	232/3	1-08	0-07	1-01
13.	H.B. Narayanaswamy S/o Badukappa	232/4	0-21	0-03	0-18
14.	Sakamma D/o Chikkadeppa	232/5	0-24	0-03	0-21
15.	M/s Punctual Properties Pvt. Ltd. Mysore Road, Bangalore, Represented by its Director Mrs. Pramod Kumar D/o Gowtham Chand	232/6	1-06	0-09	0-37
16.	Lakshmamma @ Lakshmi W/o H.G. Suresh	232/7	1-15	0-09	1-06
17.	Narasimhappa S/o Pedda Narayanappa	232/8	1-09	0-09	1-00
18.	Sakamma D/o Chikkadeppa	232/9	0-28	0-05	0-23
19.	Sakamma D/o Chikkadeppa	232/10	0-27	0-05	0-22
20.	Sharada V. W/o Late Narasimhappa H.P.	232/11	1-13	0-12	1-01
21.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	232/12	1-10	0-11	0-39
22.	Chandramohan Reddy S/o Ramareddy	232/13	1-11	0-10	1-01
23.	Anitha N. W/o N. Nagappa	232/14	1-16	0-09	1-07
24.	Gangappa S/o Late Narayanappa	233/1	2-26	0-20	2-06
25.	Chikkanarasimhappa S/o Narasappa, T. Narayanaswamy S/o Late Thimmappa, Muniswamy S/o Late Thimmappa, Krishnappa S/o Late Adinarayanappa, Chandrappa S/o Late Adinarayanappa, Gangappa S/o Narayanappa, Narayanappa S/o Chowdappa, Venkatamma W/o Late Thimmappa, Gangappa S/o Late Adeppa, Above Joint	233/2	5-39	0-38	5-01
26.	H.N. Narasimhappa S/o Narayanappa	233/3	3-18	0-25	2-33
27.	H.B. Narayanaswamy S/o Badukappa, Narasamma W/o Late S. Gangappa	233/4	3-20	0-35	2-25
28.	Tha. Venkatarayappa	234/1	8-15	2-00	6-15
29.	Sarkari Gomala, V. Venkatashivareddy S/o N. Venkataramareddy	234/2	10-00	0-28	9-12
30.	M/s Punctual Properties Pvt. Ltd. Mysore Road, Bangalore, Represented by its Director Mrs. Pramod Kumar D/o Gowtham Chand	234/3	4-00	-	4-00
31.	H.B. Adilakshmi W/o S.G. Narayanaswamy	235/1	0-37	0-15	0-22
32.	K. Venkatarayappa S/o Venkatappa	235/2A	3-31	0-16	3-15
33.	K. Venkatarayappa S/o Venkatappa	235/2B	1-29	0-01	1-28
34.	H.B. Adilakshmi D/o Jogi Bayanna	235/3	1-14	0-02	1-12
35.	H.N. Eshwarareddy S/o Late Anchi Narasimhareddy Urf Narasappa	236	3-10	-	3-10
36.	Eshwareddy S/o Narasimhareddy	236/P	3-09	-	3-09
37.	N.L. Sathyanarayanashetty S/o Late Lakshmaiahshetty	237/1	2-22	-	2-22
38.	M/s Punctual Properties Pvt. Ltd. Mysore Road, Bangalore, Represented by its Director Mrs. Pramod Kumar D/o Gowtham Chand	237/2	1-34	0-07	1-27
39.	M/s Punctual Properties Pvt. Ltd. Mysore Road, Bangalore, Represented by its Director Mrs. Pramod Kumar D/o Gowtham Chand	237/3	5-14	0-28	4-26
40.	M/s Punctual Properties Pvt. Ltd. Mysore Road, Bangalore, Represented by its Director Mrs. Pramod Kumar D/o Gowtham Chand	237/4	3-01	0-02	2-39
41.	Babulal S/o Dayaramji	238/1	3-27	0-26	3-01
42.	M. Devaraja S/o Muniappa	238/2	0-30	-	0-30
43.	M. Devaraja S/o Muniappa	238/3	0-32	0-02	0-30
44.	Anjinappa S/o Venkatarayappa	238/4	1-25	0-05	1-20
45.	H.V. Venkatashyami S/o P. Venkatappa	238/5	3-28	0-27	3-01
46.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	239/1	1-20	0-10	1-10
47.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	239/2	1-13	0-05	1-08
48.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	239/3	3-04	0-17	2-27
49.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	239/4	3-08	0-20	2-28
50.	Sarkari Banjaru, Munemma W/o Yallappa	240	6-07	0-23	5-24
51.	Sarkari Banjaru, A.K. Narasimhappa S/o Peddagangappa	241	11-37	2-34	9-03
52.	Sarkari Banjaru, V. Bayappareddy S/o Venkataramareddy	242	9-11	2-12	6-39
53.	Sarkari Banjaru, H.G. Suresh S/o Late S. Gangappa, Sowbhagyamma W/o Late Gopalappa H.N.	243	14-15	1-29	12-26
54.	Government	244/1	11-31	3-27	8-04
55.	Chandramohan Reddy S/o Late Ramareddy	244/2	4-08	1-08	3-00
56.	Donated to Govt. PU College, Bagepalli	245/1	6-11	3-11	3-00
57.	M/s Punctual Properties Pvt. Ltd. Mysore Road, Bangalore, Represented by its Director Mrs. Pramod Kumar D/o Gowtham Chand	245/2	4-07	0-07	4-00
58.	R. Ravichandra S/o H.G. Ramachandrappa	245/3	2-06.08	0-06.08	2-00
59.	H.R. Srinivas S/o H.G. Ramachandrappa	245/4	2-01.08	0-01.08	2-00
60.	Sarkari Banjaru	246	7-32	0-32	7-00
61.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	247/1	3-06	0-13	2-33
62.	K. Venkatarayappa, Land donated to Hosahudya School	247/2	4-26	0-26	4-00
63.	Sarkari Banjaru, Bayappareddy V. S/o Venkataramareddy, Krishnareddy S/o Adinarayanareddy	248	15-38	2-09	13-29
64.	Chandramohan Reddy S/o Ramareddy	248/2	4-00	0-18	3-22
65.	H.N. Ramesh S/o H.V. Nanjundappa	249/1	3-25	0-34	2-31
66.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	249/2	3-05	0-14	2-31
67.	M. Devaraja S/o Muniappa	250	7-13	1-13	6-00
68.	P. Parvathamma W/o Late H.A. Nanjundappa	251/1	15-01	6-28	8-13
69.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	251/2	2-30	0-03	2-27
70.	G. Vijayalakshmi D/o Late G. Thimmappa, G. Nagaraju S/o Late G. Thimmappa, G. Thyagaraju S/o Late G. Thimmappa, Bayappareddy V. S/o Late Venkataramareddy Urf Venkataramanareddy	253	17-22	4-26	12-36
71.	G.N. Muddukrishna S/o Narasappa	253/2	1-25	0-05	1-20
72.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	253/3	0-21	0-01	0-20
73.	Gangarajappa S/o Ramappa	253/4	0-15	-	0-15
74.	Balareddy S/o Chennareddy, Devendrareddy P.R. S/o Late Rangareddy	254/1A1	3-25.08	-	3-25.08
75.	Suryanarayanareddy S/o Chennareddy	254/1A2	2-10	-	2-10
76.	V. Srinivasa S/o Venkatesha	254/1B	1-13	-	1-13
77.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	254/2	1-13	-	1-13
78.	Alavelamma W/o Chalapathy	254/3	1-00	-	1-00
79.	Raveendrareddy N. S/o Late Narasareddy	254/4	0-04	-	0-04
80.	Raveendrareddy N. S/o Late Narasareddy	254/5	1-05.08	-	1-05.08
81.	Srinivasareddy H.O. S/o Late Obalareddy, Manjula W/o Sathisha Reddy, Above Joint	254/6	2-20	-	2-20
82.	H.N. Venkatesha S/o Late Narayanappa	254/7	1-00	-	1-00
83.	Chennareddy vagaire	255/1	0-32.04	0-00.04	0-32
84.	M/s Punctual Properties Pvt. Ltd. Mysore Road, Bangalore, Represented by its Director Mrs. Pramod Kumar D/o Gowtham Chand	255/2	1-02.08	0-13	0-29.08
85.	Gangarajappa S/o Ramappa, Nidumamidappa S/o Ramappa, Above Joint	255/3	1-05	0-15	0-30
86.	R. Goverdhan S/o Ramashetty V.	255/4	1-10	-	1-10
87.	M/s Punctual Properties Pvt. Ltd. Mysore Road, Bangalore, Represented by its Director Mrs. Pramod Kumar D/o Gowtham Chand	255/4	1-02.08	0-13	0-29.08
88.	R. Goverdhan S/o Ramashetty V.	255/5	1-10	-	1-10
89.	Amrutha S. D/o Subbareddy S.N.	255/7	1-17	0-02	1-15
90.	Chandramohan Reddy S/o Ramareddy	255/8	2-05.08	0-35.08	1-10
91.	Venkatesh S/o adinarayanappa	255/9	3-08	-	3-08
92.	Krishnappa S/o Late Mallaiah, Gowramma W/o Late Nagarajappa, Above Joint	255/10	3-07	-	3-07
93.	Mohammed Shareif S/o Late Ibrahimsaab, Moulasaab S/o Late Ibrahimsaab	255/11	1-18.04	0-03.04	1-15
94.	Thalari Narasimhappa 1/2 S/o Narasappa, Muddamma 1/2 W/o Late H.V. Adinarayanapaa, Shivamma W/o Late H.V. Narasimhappa, Above Joint	256	13-16	2-15	11-01
95.	Lakshmi P.A. W/o Anil Kumar G.	257/1	2-13	0-02	2-11
96.	Gangamma w/o Ashwathappa	257/2	0-15	0-00.08	0-14.08
97.	Gangarajappa S/o Ramappa, Nidumamidappa S/o Ramappa, Above Joint	257/3	1-14	0-01	1-13
98.	Gangarajappa S/o Ramappa, Nidumamidappa S/o Ramappa, Above Joint	257/4	1-21	0-01	1-20
99.	Anjinamma W/o Sunkappa	257/5	0-33	0-9	0-24
100.	Gangamma w/o Ashwathappa	257/6	0-05	-	0-05
101.	Nanjundappa S/o Late Sunkappa, Adeppa S/o Late Sunkappa, Adinarayanappa S/o Late Sunkappa, Gangarathnamma, Above Joint	257/7	1-23	0-13	1-10
102.	Venkatamma W/o Ramappa	257/8	0-32	0-04	0-28
103.	Sarkari	257/9	1-02	0-07	0-35
104.	Gangamma W/o Narayanappa, Lakshmamma W/o Late Hanumappa	257/10	1-18	0-36	0-22
105.	Nidumamidappa S/o Ramappa	257/11	0-11	0-01	0-10
106.	Nidumamidappa S/o Ramappa	257/12	0-15	0-00.08	0-14.08
107.	P.G. Shivareddy S/o Late Govindareddy	258/1	0-21.08	-	0-21.08
108.	Shubhashanamma W/o Late P.G. Krishnareddy	258/2	0-21.08	-	0-21.08
109.	P.G. Gangireddy S/o Late Govindareddy	258/3	0-21.08	-	0-21.08
110.	Shivamma W/o Late P.G. Narayanareddy	258/4	0-21.08	-	0-21.08
111.	Shivamma W/o Late P.G. Narayanareddy	258/5	2-00	-	2-00
112.	P.G. Gangireddy S/o Late Govindareddy	258/6	2-00	-	2-00
113.	Shubhashanamma W/o Late Krishnareddy	258/7	2-06	0-06	2-00
114.	Shivareddy	258/8	2-24	0-08	2-16
115.	Shubhashanamma W/o Late Krishnareddy	258/9	0-21	0-05	0-16
116.	Shivamma W/o Late P.G. Narayanareddy	258/10	0-20	0-04	0-16
117.	Shivamma W/o Late P.G. Narayanareddy	258/11	0-36	0-04	0-32
118.	Shivappa S/o Late Thimmappa, Ramesh S/o Gangappa, Lakshmidevamma W/o Late Late Anandappa, Above Joint	259/1A	2-28	0-04	2-24
119.	Gangappa S/o Late Adeppa	259/1B	1-20	-	1-20
120.	V. Venkatashivareddy S/o Late N. Venkataramareddy	259/2	0-30	0-01	0-29
121.	Lakshmidevi W/o Nagaraju, Adinarayanappa S/o Late Pallinarayanappa, Narasimhamurthy T. S/o Thimmappa, Above Joint	259/3	0-26	0-01	0-25
122.	Umadevi W/o Late H. A. Srinivasa	259/4	0-16.08	0-00.08	0-16
123.	Venkataramappa S/o Late Venkatappa, Gangamma W/o Late Narayanappa, Lakshmamma W/o Late Hanumappa, Above Joint	259/5	2-32	0-03	2-29
124.	Adinarayanappa S/o Kalekunta Nanjundappa, Krishnappa S/o Kalekunte Nanjundappa, Above Joint	259/6	1-16	0-02	1-14
125.	V. Venkatashivareddy S/o Late N. Venkataramareddy	259/7	1-14	0-02	1-12
126.	Gangarajappa S/o ramappa	259/8	0-17.08	0-00.08	0-17
127.	Gangamma W/o Ashwathappa	259/9	0-17.08	0-00.08	0-17
128.	Ramanjanappa S/o Late Hanumappa	259/10	0-20.08	0-00.08	0-20
129.	Rathnamma W/o Venkatashivareddy	263	2-12	0-04	2-08
130.	H.N. Venkateshappa S/o Late Narayanappa	264	1-27	-	1-27
131.	Lakshminarayana S/o Late Narayanaswamy, Venkatalakshmamma W/o Late Venkateshappa, B.K. Srinivas S/o Late Krishnappa, Shivappa S/o Gurumurthy, G.P., Above Joint	265/1	1-20	-	1-20
132.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	265/2	1-21	-	1-21
133.	Lakshminarayana S/o Late Narayanaswamy, Venkatalakshmamma W/o Late Venkateshappa, B.K. Srinivas S/o Late Krishnappa, Shivappa S/o Gurumurthy G.P., Above Joint	265/3	1-24	-	1-24
134.	Chandramohan Reddy S/o Ramareddy	265/4	1-00	-	1-00
135.	V. Suryanarayanareddy	265/5	0-22	-	0-22
136.	Sharadha V. W/o Late Narasimhappa H.P.	266/1A	1-17	0-02	1-15
137.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	266/1B	1-17	0-02	1-15
138.	Sowbhagyamma W/o H.N. Gopalappa	266/2	1-08	-	1-08
139.	Chikkadireddy S/o Doddavenkatanarasappa	266/3A	0-33	-	0-33
140.	Sharadha V. W/o Late Narasimhappa H.P.	266/3B	0-33	-	0-33
141.	H.N. Manjula D/o Late H.V. Narasimhaiah	266/4	0-25	-	0-25
142.	Narayanappa S/o Museppa, H.N. Gopi S/o Late H.V. Narasimhaiah	266/5	3-14	-	3-14
143.	H.N. Lakshmidevamma W/o Nagaraju, Adinarayanappa S/o Palli Narayanappa, Thimmappa S/o Palli Narayanappa, Above Joint	266/6	2-12	-	2-12
144.	Chowdamma W/o Narasimhappa, H.G. Gangadhar S/o Late S. Gangappa	266/7	1-37	-	1-37
145.	H.G.Suresh S/o Late S. Gangappa	266/8	1-39	0-07	1-32
146.	H.C. Chowdaiah S/o Chowdappa	266/9	1-08	-	1-08
147.	Madanamohanareddy S/o Late Govindareddy	267	2-25	0-03	2-22
148.	Muddanagappa S/o Late Chinnappaiah, Ramachandra S/o Late Chinnappaiah, Sakamma W/o Late Devaraja, Lakshmidevamma W/o Late Shivappa, Above Joint	268/1	7-05	0-20	6-25
149.	H.E. Harishareddy S/o H.N. Eshwarareddy, H.E. Girish Reddy S/o H.N. Eshwarareddy, Above Joint	268/2	5-00	0-09	4-31
150.	Narayanappa S/o Musalappa, H.N. Gopi S/o Late H.V. Narasimhaiah	274	8-04	0-31	7-13
151.	Harish H.V. S/o V. Venkatashivareddy	276	2-15	0-02	2-13
152.	Gangamma w/o Narayanappa, Narasimhappa S/o Narayanappa, Above Joint	277	2-16	0-01	2-15
153.	Aruna W/o Chandramohan Reddy	304	3-00	-	3-00
154.	M. Devaraja S/o Muniappa	312	3-00	-	3-00
Total			**445-10**	**61-12**	**383-38**

Abstract

Sl. No	Name of the Village	Area		
		Ainu A–G	Kharab A–G	Remaining A–G
1	Hosahudya	445-10	61-12	383-38
	Total	**445-10**	**61-12**	**383-38**

It is hereby informed to the Khathedars/ Anubhavadars/ Interested persons of the above mentioned Lands that under Karnataka Industrial Area Development Act 1966 Section 28 (2) Information Notices were issued to the Notified Khathedars/ Anubhavadars and sent by Registered Post. Addresses of some of the Land Owners were not found and the postal department has sent back the envelopes with remarks to this Office. Khathedars/ Anubhavadars of the above mentioned Lands should consider this Notification as Information Notice under Karnataka Industrial Area Development Act 1966 Section 28 (2).

It is hereby informed that if there are any objections to this Land Acquisition Process, within **30 days** from the date of publication in State Gazette, objections should be submitted in writing, in person or through authorized person with necessary documents to this office. It is brought to the knowledge of the public that objections received after the time period will not be considered. The enquiry of the above mentioned villages has been fixed on dates mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Taluk	Name of the Village	Gazette Sl. No. From - To	Survey No. From - To	Date & Time of Enquiry
1	Bagepalli	Hosahudya	1 to 154	189/1 to 312	11.02.2026 11.00 Hrs.

Submissions should be made on the above mentioned dates with Documents in writing or in person.

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer-2, KIADB, Bengaluru.

DIPR/DD-C.P/5287/KSMCA/2025-26

SOWING DISHARMONY? State govt's 'demographic imbalance' claim appears flimsy

Raj 'disturbed areas' Bill perturbs politicians, experts

RAKHEE ROYTALUKDAR

The BJP-led Rajasthan government's controversial "Disturbed Areas" Bill — which would authorise it to declare certain localities "disturbed" to rectify a perceived demographic imbalance, control property sales, and protect tenants — has raised hackles, with the Opposition calling it politically-driven, unconstitutional, and unwarranted.

The Rajasthan Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from the Premises in Disturbed Areas Bill, 2026 — being touted as a move to maintain communal harmony and social structure — will give the government unrestricted powers to label neighbourhoods as "disturbed areas" and block property transfers without official permission.

Areas can be declared "disturbed" for a period of three years, which can be extended or reduced subject to certain conditions. Any violation could lead to three to five years in jail, and the offences would be bailable and non-bailable.

Activists and legal experts say the Bill leans heavily on vague claims of demographic imbalance and mirrors the controversial Gujarat Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Act, 1991, raising fears of targeting, profiling, and state overreach.

The Gujarat law was enacted after a series of communal riots, originally framed to prevent distress sales — the phenomenon of people being forced to sell their property at throwaway prices due to fear of violence or intimidation, usually during communal unrest. Its constitutional validity is currently under challenge before the Gujarat High Court.

The Rajasthan Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from the Premises in Disturbed Areas Bill, 2026, is being touted as a move to maintain communal harmony and social structure. PTI FILE

Meanwhile, the desert state's new Bill comes close on the heels of the Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025, which clamps down on religious conversion by force or by fraudulent means. Petitioners against it have argued that it infringes on constitutional protections.

Activists and political observers say that the new Bill was politically motivated to deepen religious polarisation in a state known for communal harmony.

Draft Bill's details

The Bill aims to declare areas affected by violence, mob unrest, or what the government calls "improper clustering" as "disturbed areas", and property transfers there would be null and void unless approved by a competent authority, like the district magistrate.

State Law Minister Jogaram Patel, in the current Assembly session, justified the need for the Bill thus: "In many areas of our state, there has been a widespread impact of the increasing population of a particular community. Demographic imbalance, communal tension, and a lack of public harmony have been seen for quite some time."

According to the government, the riots, mob violence, and unrest were deliberate acts, and many old inhabitants in such areas were being forced to sell their property at throwaway prices. Hence, there was a need to regulate such areas and stop the demographic profile change. Terming the Bill as progressive, the minister said its passage would protect permanent residents' properties and tenants' rights in areas declared as "disturbed".

Reactions

The Congress has strongly opposed the Bill, calling it unconstitutional, politically-driven, and an infringement on the rights to equality and property, arguing that existing criminal laws were sufficient to handle law-and-order concerns.

Challenging the Bill's legal basis, it said the law did not recognise terms such as "population or demographic imbalance", and that it did not define the criteria for a "disturbed area".

Former chief minister Ashok Gehlot called the Bill a shameful chapter in Rajasthan's history. He wrote on X that his Congress government established the country's first Peace and Non-Violence Department, following the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, but the current regime not only dismantled it but was turning the state into a "communal laboratory".

He added that the state's current condition did not warrant such legislation. Warning of far-reaching consequences, he also said the proposed law would negatively impact ordinary citizens' property values and divide communities.

Reacting to the proposed Bill, political commentator and author Sunny Sebastian said: "I cannot understand the immediate need for the Bill, because Rajasthan is a relatively peaceful state and has no history of communal disharmony."

He added: "It may be on the instructions of the Centre or the work of state leaders to remain or elevate themselves in the good books of the top leaders, coming as it is on the heels of the anti-conversion bill passed in September 2025."

(The author is a senior Jaipur-based journalist)

'Trashy ruminations': India dismisses Epstein email on Modi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India on Saturday dismissed a reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2017 visit to Israel in an email purportedly sent by the late financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

"We have seen reports of an email message from the so-called Epstein files that has a reference to the prime minister and his visit to Israel," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

"Beyond the fact of the PM's official visit to Israel in July 2017, the rest of the allusions in the email are little more than trashy ruminations by a convicted criminal, which deserve to be dismissed with the utmost contempt."

The US Department of Justice on Friday released an extensive cache of investigative records connected to Epstein, including over 30 lakh pages of documents, 2,000 videos, and roughly 1.8 lakh images.

An email dated July 6, 2017, referred to Modi's first visit to Israel, which began on July 4. He was the first Indian PM to visit the country, meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and later visiting Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian Authority, a few months later.

"The Indian Prime Minister Modi took advice and danced and sang in Israel for the benefit of the US president," Epstein wrote.

The email also mentioned a meeting between Modi and US President Donald Trump a few weeks earlier, noting: "It worked."

Extremely shameful: Cong

Congress on Saturday attacked Modi, calling the email reference "extremely shameful" and a "matter of national dignity and international reputation," demanding answers from the Prime Minister.

Sharing documents released by the US Department of Justice, Congress asked Modi to spell out the "advice" he allegedly took from Epstein.

A few pertinent questions arise: 1. Why was Modi meeting a disgraceful American such as Epstein right around the 2019 elections? 2. Why was Modi lying to the country about his friendship with America when no one in "Wash" cared to speak to him? 3. Why did he, just a year later, after the Galwan crisis give a clean chit to his "main enemy" China?

PAWAN KHERA
Cong leader

The Congress's sensational claim that Jeffrey Epstein wrote about PM Narendra Modi allegedly taking his 'advice' to 'dance and sing' in Israel for the benefit of a US President is a gross distortion of the fact.

AMIT MALVIYA
BJP leader

Party general secretary Jairam Ramesh said Modi is mentioned "several times" and that "many questions remain," adding on X: "This is getting even more scandalous. The PM's silence is unacceptable."

"Now it is clear that PM Modi has a very deep and long-standing connection with Jeffrey Epstein, which is shameful for India. This is a matter of national dignity and international reputation, for which Prime Minister Modi must answer... PM Modi, the nation wants to know: What is your relationship with Jeffrey Epstein?" the Congress asked.

Misinformation: BJP

The BJP accused Congress of spreading misinformation and twisting a generic email fragment from Epstein's files into a political smear, asserting there is "zero evidence" of any direct or indirect interaction between Modi and Epstein.

BJP leader Amit Malviya flagged the Opposition's post on X as "fake news."

Zero-tolerance for terrorism must be global norm: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, PTI: Cross-border terrorism is unacceptable as it violates the basic principles of international relations and zero-tolerance for terrorism must be an "uncompromising universal norm", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday.

In an address at the second India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting, he also asserted that societies targeted by terrorism have the right to defend themselves and will "understandably exercise it".

Jaishankar, touching upon the current geopolitical environment, said nowhere is this more apparent than in the Middle East as the landscape in the region has undergone a dramatic change in the last year.

"This obviously impacts all of us and India as a proximate region. To a considerable degree, its implications are relevant for India's relationship with Arab nations as well," he said.

The external affairs minister said multiple developments, each of considerable consequence, have taken place in the Middle East over the last few years.

India gets Ramsar tag for 2 wetlands

NEW DELHI, PTI: The wetlands in Kutch in Gujarat and Etah in Uttar Pradesh have been recognised as Ramsar sites, marking the unique ecosystems for conservation under a global framework.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the local population and those passionate about wetland conservation for the designation of Patna Bird Sanctuary in Etah and Chhari-Dhand in Kutch as Ramsar sites.

The designation of these two sites under the Ramsar Convention takes the total number of such wetlands in India to 98.

Sunetra: From reluctant politician to bearer of her husband's legacy

She has been a driving force behind several initiatives

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Rajya Sabha MP Sunetra Pawar arrives to take oath as Maharashtra's first woman Deputy CM at Lok Bhavan. PTI

For decades, Sunetra Pawar stayed away from active politics, working quietly in the fields of social initiatives, environment, sustainability, and entrepreneurship.

She stepped into the political spotlight in 2024 when her late husband Ajit Pawar — then NCP president and Maharashtra deputy chief minister — fielded her from Baramati in the Lok Sabha elections after taking control of the party by dislodging his mentor and uncle Sharad Pawar. Sunetra lost to Sharad Pawar's daughter and NCP (SP) working president Supriya Sule. Subsequently, she was accommodated in the Rajya Sabha with the BJP's support.

Popularly known as "Vahini" (sister-in-law) or "Tai" (sister), Sunetra was often seen next to Ajit Pawar — fondly called "Dada" (brother) — at public events in Baramati.

Now, as she takes charge as Maharashtra's Deputy CM, Sunetra is acutely aware of stepping into formidable shoes. Ajit Pawar was a mass leader, a tough administrator, and a gifted orator with sharp humour.

"He says what he means and means what he says. People often misunderstand him, but he has a big heart. He speaks the same way at home as he does in the office," Sunetra told this correspondent during the 2019 Assembly election campaign.

Sunetra was born on October 18, 1963, in the erstwhile Osmanabad district (now Dharashiv) in a politically influential family.

Sunetra married Ajit in 1985. They have two sons — Parth (35) and Jay (25) — whose political careers are yet to take off.

Sunetra consciously stayed away from electoral politics, but was a driving force behind several initiatives promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

NCP-NCP (SP) merger takes backseat?

MUMBAI, DHNS: Amid fast-changing political developments in Maharashtra involving the NCP and NCP (SP), talks on the two parties' much-anticipated merger appear to have been pushed to the back burner following the untimely demise of NCP chief and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar.

Though both sides tentatively agreed on February 12 as the date for announcing the merger, recent statements by NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar indicate that the process has, for now, lost momentum.

Speaking to reporters in Baramati, Sharad took an indirect swipe at NCP working president Praful Patel and state chief Sunil Tatkare, suggesting that decisions were being taken in Mumbai without broader consultation. He also said he had no information about Sunetra being made the DyCM.

'Most corrupt govt': Shah's charge sparks TMC counterattack

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The TMC government in West Bengal was the most corrupt in the country, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday, triggering a strong response from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party, which called him the "most unsuccessful" individual to hold the Home portfolio.

Abhishek Banerjee

Amit Shah

"Corruption has become an integral part of the system in West Bengal," said Shah at a BJP workers' meeting in Siliguri. He alleged that the scams during Mamata's 15-year tenure were worth Rs 10 lakh crore.

Shah also named some TMC leaders who had been accused of corruption. "If you don't favour corruption, prove it by denying your party's tickets to these 23 people," he said, adding: "But she will give them tickets again because if she doesn't, they will open the files."

Shah returned to Bengal just a month after he visited the state on December 30-31 to review the BJP's preparations for the Assembly elections.

Shah addressed another rally at Barrackpore in South Bengal on Saturday, reiterating the BJP's allegation that the TMC government was endangering national security by facilitating illegal migration from Bangladesh.

The TMC hit back at Shah, with party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee calling him the most unsuccessful home minister the country ever had.

"He speaks about infiltration. He must take the responsibility, as the BSF, which guards the frontiers, is controlled by the Ministry of Home Affairs," he told journalists.

"Why were corruption charges against certain leaders dropped after they joined the BJP? Why do central agencies stop probe midway when leaders join BJP?" he asked.

Adani agrees to receive legal notice in US civil fraud case

Gautam Adani

NEW YORK/NEW DELHI, PTI: Billionaire Gautam Adani and his nephew, Sagar Adani, have agreed to receive a legal notice from the US Securities and Exchange Commission in a civil fraud lawsuit alleging they misled investors about a bribery scheme, according to a court filing.

The stipulation is subject to court approval.

In a filing in a federal court in Brooklyn, New York, seen by PTI, the SEC and US-based lawyers for Gautam and Sagar Adani said the lawyers had agreed to accept service of the regulator's legal papers, removing the need for a judge to rule on how the defendants should be served.

The joint application has been submitted for approval from the Court concerned. This is a standard procedural step in US legal proceedings that allows for the orderly resolution of cases.

If agreed by the judge, the joint application will allow the SEC matter to progress while giving time to the Adanis to either file their motion to dismiss or file their defence within 90 days.

The Securities and Exchange Commission thereafter can file their opposition within a further period of 60 days.

IMD FORECAST

Warm February to grip large parts of India

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

February will witness above-normal temperature in large parts of India, impacting wheat, barley, oilseeds, vegetable and fruit crop yields, particularly in the north-west and central India, the India Meteorological Department said here on Saturday.

Day temperature will be on the higher side over a vast area in the eastern part of the country, stretching from Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in the north-east to the north interior and central Karnataka. Other states that may feel the heat are Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.

IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that El Nino might develop in the second half of the monsoon season, but a clearer picture would emerge by April. El Nino, an unusual warming of the Pacific that influences weather globally, is typically associated with a poor Indian summer monsoon.

Elevated night temperature in February would also be experienced by most parts of the country, barring a few states on the east coast, but the most prominent above-normal minimum temperature trend would be seen in the north-west India, Indo-Gangetic plains and parts of central and western India, impacting crops across regions.

Above-normal temperatures may accelerate crop growth and shorten the crop duration of wheat and barley that may experience forced maturity, resulting in yield reduction.

Mustard, chickpea, lentil, and field peas might show early flowering and premature maturity, leading to poor pod development, reduced seed size, and lower yields, IMD said in an agromet advisory, suggesting countermeasures like light irrigation and conserving soil moisture.

A warm February is also likely to impact the production of vegetables like potato, onion, garlic, tomato, cauliflower, cabbage and peas, and horticulture crops like mango, citrus, banana and grapes. Livestock and poultry may also experience heat stress, leading to reduced milk and egg production unless cooling measures are taken.

Asked about the lack of snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand this January, Mohapatra said there has been a decline in snowfall in the western Himalayas in recent years due to climate change, as suggested in a few studies. Similar trends were seen in 2023 and 2025, too.

This year, a long and dry spell of winter continued till the third week of January when the first major Western Disturbance hit India between Jan 21-24, triggering heavy snowfall.

IN BRIEF

RSS-backed trade union not to join Feb 12 stir

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The RSS-backed Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) on Saturday said it will not participate in the General Strike on February 12 called by Opposition-backed Central Trade Unions and the Samyukta Kisan Morcha with "political motives".

In a statement, BMS general secretary Ravindra Himte said they "consistently support constructive and pro-labour initiatives" of the government while "firmly opposing and raising objections" to policies that may adversely affect workers.

KCR to appear before SIT today

HYDERABAD, PTI: Former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Saturday told the Telangana SIT probing "phone tapping" during the previous BRS regime that he would appear for questioning on February 1, while accusing the investigating officer of "violating legal procedures" in serving the notice.

The BRS called for peaceful protests across the state on Sunday against the "political harassment" of Rao.

J&K: Search op narrowed down

JAMMU, PTI: A search operation, which has been underway to neutralise three holed-up JeM terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar, has been narrowed down to a specific area following an encounter on Saturday morning, officials said.

The gunfight began when army troops re-established contact with the terrorists in Kishtwar early Saturday, officials said.

Kishtwar has seen six encounters in the past seven months as forces continue their crackdown on Pakistan-based terrorists operating in the border region.

SC asks states to defer service bonds for PG super-speciality courses

Several states have made it mandatory for the PG students to serve in govt centres

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has suggested that the state governments consider developing a mechanism to allow meritorious postgraduate medical students to undertake super-specialty courses by deferring the mandatory service bonds.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said this will also immensely benefit the state, as a candidate with a super-speciality qualification will be serving the state.

Several states have made it mandatory for the PG students to render their services in government centres.

The court said the candidates who furnish a bond to the state may also aspire to acquire higher qualifications, and if a candidate has to complete the service and then apply for the super-speciality MCH and DM courses, it may happen that, in some cases, they may be rendered ineligible.

"It is for the state to introspect and see if, among those candidates who have furnished the bond, there are exceptional candidates who have, on merit, secured admission to super-speciality courses in reputed medical institutions, and whether a mechanism can be evolved to defer the service under the bond till they complete the super speciality course," the bench said.

UNBONDED

- The SC was considering a plea by Shyam Chandran, who secured All India Rank 9 in super-speciality DM/MCH
- The court says those candidates who furnish a bond to the state may also aspire to acquire higher qualifications
- Directs the Himachal government to hand over the original certificates of appellant

The court was considering a plea by Shyam Chandran, who secured an All India Rank of nine in the super-speciality DM/MCH and has been called for counselling at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Trivandrum. Before he could serve out the bond period by taking a posting in Himachal Pradesh, he was selected to DM/MCH super speciality.

The State's Advocate General submitted that when a candidate undergoes a postgraduate degree, apart from the stipend that they are paid monthly, the fee of the candidate is also subsidised, and it is for that reason that a bond for a period of two years is taken so that rural areas in the state, inter alia, have the benefit of the service of the candidate.

In view of the facts and circumstances and in exercise of power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the bench said, "We direct the State of Himachal Pradesh to hand over the original certificates of the appellant, which are deposited with the state, to enable the appellant to report at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, to avail the benefit of the seat."

India, US working towards closing trade deal quickly: Goyal

NEW DELHI, PTI: The negotiations for a proposed bilateral trade agreement between India and the US are progressing, and both countries are working to close the deal "quickly", Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

He expressed confidence that "good news" on this front will be announced in the near future.

"Every free trade agreement stands on its own legs. And we are having very good negotiations. My counterpart in the US and I have a very wonderful working relationship and a wonderful personal friendship. We are working towards closing the deal quickly," Goyal told PTI in an interview.

He was replying to a question about when the "father of all deals" between India and the US would become a reality, now that the "mother of all deals" is done.

The free trade agreement between India and the European Union, which was concluded recently, has been widely termed as "mother of all deals".

On whether the India-US trade pact could be concluded by the end of this year, he said trade deals are never negotiated with a deadline and would be finalised at the right time and in the interests of both countries.

Lawmakers from poll-bound states to lead BJP debate in Parl

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Lawmakers from poll-bound Assam and Kerala -- Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and C Sadanandan Master -- will open the debate for the BJP on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, respectively.

Sonowal, who represents the Dibrugarh constituency in Assam, will move the motion in Lok Sabha, while MP C Sadanandan Master, who hails from Kerala, will start the proceedings in Rajya Sabha on Monday.

In Lok Sabha, Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya will second the motion while Rajya Sabha MP from Maharashtra Medha Vishram Kulkarni will do the honours in the Upper House.

The choice of Sonowal and Sadanandan Master is part of a strategy to highlight the issues of the poll-bound states by the BJP. While in Kerala, the saffron party is trying to find a foothold, in Assam it has been in power for the past 10 years.

The Opposition is likely to raise several issues, including repeal of MGNREGA.

Congress flags GDP, CPI revision timing ahead of Budget

Says developments reflect poor policy coordination by Modi government

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress on Saturday said the new and updated GDP and Consumer Price Index series will be unveiled days after the Budget and asked whether the Budget numbers undergo revisions against this backdrop. It also said it reflects poorly on coordination in policymaking in the Modi government.

With Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman all set to present her ninth budget on Sunday, General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said state governments would be anxiously awaiting what awaits them since the minister will be announcing the implementation of the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission.

JAIRAM RAMESH
Congress leader

"First, many of the Budget's numbers will be expressed as a % of GDP. However, just twenty-six days later on Feb 27, 2026, the new and updated GDP series with 2022/23 as the base is scheduled to be released

The Finance Commission is a body set up under Article 280 of the Constitution every five years (or earlier) to recommend the share of the states in the tax revenues collected by the Centre, the distribution of this share among the states, and special grants for five years. The 16th Finance Commission deals with the period 2026/27-2030/31, he said.

"But there are two other concerns. First, many of the Budget's numbers will be expressed as a % of GDP. However, just twenty-six days later, on Feb 27, 2026, the new and updated GDP series with 2022/23 as the base is scheduled to be released. Would the Budget numbers then undergo revisions very soon after they are unveiled on Feb 1, 2026?" he posted on X.

"Second, the new Consumer Price Index series with 2024 as the base is expected to be released on Feb 12, 2026. It is expected that the new series will see a sharp reduction in the share of food prices. If this were to be the case, there will be an impact on the Budget numbers. The Wholesale Price Index, too, is undergoing revision, and presumably that will be made public in the next few months. Either way, it reflects poorly on coordination in policy making," it added.

UNITY CALL

A protester holds a poster during 'Save Manipur' rally, organised by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity, an umbrella body of several Meitei civil society organisations, in Imphal on Saturday. Thousands of people held a rally to assert their stand that the territorial and administrative integrity of the state cannot be divided at any cost. PTI

Filmmaker Vikram Bhatt, wife denied bail in cheating case

JODHPUR, PTI: The Rajasthan High Court on Saturday rejected the bail applications of filmmaker Vikram Bhatt, his wife, and two others who are in jail in a cheating case.

The court observed that granting bail at this stage would not be appropriate.

During the hearing, the special public prosecutor opposed the bail applications, arguing that the investigation in the case is still ongoing and further interrogation of the accused is required. The SPP said if the applicants are released on bail at this stage, they may influence witnesses.

Indira IVF and Fertility Centre founder Ajay Murdia, a resident of Udaipur, had lodged a complaint against Vikram Bhatt, his wife Shwetambari Bhatt and others, alleging that funds taken in the name of a film project were misappropriated.

I have quit Congress, says Navjot Kaur

CHANDIGARH, PTI: Congress leader Navjot Kaur Sidhu on Saturday said she has quit the party, while hitting out at its Punjab chief, Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, for allegedly "damaging" the organisation and calling him "the most horrific, incapable, corrupt president ever".

Kaur was suspended by the Congress from its primary membership last month, after she sparked a political row with her "Rs 500 crore for the chief minister's chair" remark.

Kaur is the wife of former Punjab Congress chief and former cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu. She accused Warring of selling the party for petty gains through an understanding with the ruling Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab."RAJA WARRING, The most horrific, incapable, corrupt president ever. You saved yourself from jail by co partnering with CM to destroy Congress."

New plant species 'Hoya nagaensis' discovered in Nagaland forests

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Nagaland University has said that a team of their researchers have discovered a new plant species in a community-preserved forest located in a high-altitude in Phek district, underscoring the significance of the Northeast as one of the country's biodiversity hotspots.

The university said the new species, 'Hoya nagaensis', was discovered during systematic botanical explorations of under-explored forest areas in the hill state.

Hoya nagaensis. NAGALAND UNIVERSITY

"The plant displays distinctive leaf shapes and floral characteristics that clearly differentiate it from other known species in the Hoya genus. The findings provide strong evidence that community-protected forests in Nagaland are critical refuges for rare and endemic plant species, contributing valuable data to global plant science and strengthening India's botanical records," Vieneite-o Koza, Researcher, Nagaland University, said.

The study was led by principal investigator Gyati Yam, Department of Forestry, Nagaland University, with Vieneite-o Koza and Joynath Pegu as two other researchers. The findings were published in 'Kew Bulletin', a peer-reviewed international journal publishing authoritative research on global biodiversity.

Elated over the discovery, Vice Chancellor of the University, Jagadish Kumar Patnaik, said, "The discovery of a new plant species by Nagaland University researchers highlights the extraordinary biodiversity of Northeast India. It provides strong evidence that community-protected forests in Nagaland are vital refuges for rare and endemic plants."

Trade unions seek withdrawal of CJI remarks

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Ten Opposition-backed Central Trade Unions on Saturday objected to the Supreme Court dismissal of a petition seeking minimum wages for domestic workers, calling it "deeply disturbing", even as it asked Chief Justice of India Surya Kant to withdraw his remarks that trade unionism is largely responsible for hurting India's industrial growth.

A joint statement by INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF and UTUC said such remarks reflect a "class bias" in judicial reasoning, "undermine" the constitutional vision of a welfare state, and are "contrary" to the principles of social justice, equality, and dignity of labour enshrined in the Constitution.

The statement came against the backdrop of the SC dismissing a petition by 'Penn Thozhilalargal Sangam' seeking minimum wages for domestic workers, with the CJI making comments against trade unionism.

"The CTUs hereby reiterate in unequivocal terms that targeting trade unions while remaining silent on policy-driven exploitation risks lending legitimacy to an ongoing class offensive against labour," it said.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL SonthiL.I.Division,
Khanapur Camp Tq: ShahapurDist: Yadgiri Karnataka State

No: KBJNL/ SLI Divn./PB-1/2025-26/ 1118, Dated:30.01.2026

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION Call-2 (Through e- Procurement only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL., Bangalore ,the Executive Engineer KBJNL, Sonthi LI Division, KhanapurTq: Shahapur invites percentage tenders for One work in Two cover system. The tenderers are required to submit EMD and other documents through e-portal only.

1) Details of work: 1 No. of AME work (Indent No.2672) **2) Amount put to tender** :Rs 84.74 lakhs **3) Contractors class:** class -I civil contractor **4) Tender process fee:** As per KPP portal **5) EMD:** Rs. 170000.00 **6) Submission of completed e-tendering documents:** From: 02.02.2026 to 09.02.2026 upto 5.00 PM 7) Last Date for Submission of completed e-tendering document: 09.02.2026 upto 5.00 PM **8) Date and time of opening of tenders:** 11.02.2026 @11.00 AM **9) Place of opening of tenders:** Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Sonthi LI Division, Khanapur

The tender details can be obtained from the e-procurement platform. For any additional information's please contact the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIP/YDG/505/KSMC&A/2025-26 **KBJNL SonthiL.I.Division, Khanapur Camp**

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Finance Department, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

NOTICE

1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs.6000 crore (Rs.2,000 crore - Re-issue of 7.15% SGS 2031; Rs.2,000 crore - 7-Year Tenure; Rs.2,000 crore - 9-Year Tenure)
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through RBI (PDO), Mumbai
3. Date of auction : February 03, 2026

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bangalore. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in.**

Sd/- (Ikram Shariff)
Joint Secretary to Government
DIPR/CP/5248/Zen/2025-26 **(Budget & Resources), Finance Department**

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY
Pareeksha Bhavana, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bengaluru- 560 056

No: BU/E-Gov/Tenders-ADV-01:2025-26 Date: 31.01.2026

E-Tender Notification

Bangalore University invites bids for the following tenders through Karnataka Public procurement Portal. Details of the tenders are available at e-procurement platform **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Bids are to be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Bidders are requested to adhere to the time schedule prescribed in the tender.

Sl. No.	Description of the Tender
1	Conservation Japanese Tissue Lamination and Document Management System: Conservation, Japanese Tissue Lamination, Scanning, Digitizing and Indexing of Marks lists & Ledgers in the Examination branch
2	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Scanners to enhance Scanning-Center for Digital Valuation System (DVS)

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/5348/AKAR/2025-26 **Registrar (Evaluation)**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U. R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL AIRPORT ROAD, VIMANAPURA POST, BENGALURU - 560 017.
Phone: 080 2508-4185, 4156
BRIEF TENDER NOTICES

1.On behalf of the President of India, **item- rate** tender is invited for the following work:

Description	Details
Name of work	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 1500 kVA, LT DG Set with connected works at URSC Main Campus, Bengaluru.
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C&MG/E/C/19/2025-26 Dt. 28/01/2026
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 232.71 Lakhs
Period of completion in months	Ten (10) Months
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 4,65,420/- valid for 180 Days**

2.Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Director, C&MG, URSC

ಹಿಂದೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಧರ್ಮಾದಾಯ ದತ್ತಿಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ವಸಂತವಲ್ಲಭರಾಯ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮೂಹ ದೇವಾಲಯಗಳು
ವಸಂತಪುರ, ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಉತ್ತರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
Ph.No.: 080-26663874, **e-mail:** vvrs.groupoftemples@gmail.com

ಸಂ: ಶ್ರೀ.ನಾ.ದೇ.ಸಿಆರ್/30/2020–21 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.01.2026

ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೇಗೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಶ್ರೀ ನಾಗೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇವಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿವಿಧ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿಯನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಹಿಂದೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಧರ್ಮಾದಾಯ ದತ್ತಿಗಳ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳು 2002 ನಿಯಮ–12(1)ರನ್ವಯ ಆಯ್ಕೆ/ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೊಳ್ಪಟ್ಟು ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ಹೆಸರು	ವೃಂದ	ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
1	ಪಾರುಪತ್ತೇದಾರರು (ಹೊರಾಂಗಣ)	ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಸಿ'	1
2	ಹಗಲು ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರು (ಹೊರಾಂಗಣ)	ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ'	1
3	ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರು (ಹೊರಾಂಗಣ)	ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ'	1

ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಆಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.01.2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21.02.2026ರವರೆಗೆ** ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಸಂತಪುರ ಶ್ರೀ ವಸಂತವಲ್ಲಭರಾಯಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇವಾಲಯದ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಆಧಾರ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಪ್ರತಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ, ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ:**21.02.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರ** ಒಳಗೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ನಂತರ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾಗುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

DIPR/CP/5320/SA/2025-26 **ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು**

Government of Karnataka
Shivamogga Institute of Medical Sciences
An Autonomous Institute of Medical Sciences, Sagar Road,
Shivamogga - 577 201. Phone : 08182 229933/264199
FAX :08182 264100, Website : **www.sims-shimoga.com**

No: SIMS/PRCU/TNDR/17/2025-PSTR-SIMS-SMG **Date: 29.01.2026**

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ **Laptop** ಖರೀದಿಗಾಗಿ ದ್ವಿ–ಲೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Sl No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of the Item
1	**Tender No. SIMS/PRCU/TNDR/52/2024-PSTR-SIMS-SMG Date: 30.01.2026**	**Procurement of Laptop Items to SCP/TSP Students SIMS, Shimoga**

ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಲಭ್ಯತೆ: ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ **01**ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06.02.2026** ರಿಂದ **21.02.2026**ರ ಸಂಜೆ **5.00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಬಿಡ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. **01**ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23–02–2026** ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **10.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು, ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ/ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ/ ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

Sd/- Director/Dean
DIPR/SMG/No-209-01/ZENKAR/2025-26 **Shivamogga Institute of Medical Sciences, Shivamogga**

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD DIVISION, KALABURAGI

No: EE/PWD/KD/TS-4/Tender Notification/2025-26/7253 Date : 29.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Invites tender for the works Under KKRDB for the year 2025-26 Work for indent No.32363, 31506, 32661, 32647, 32660, 32566, 31464, 32671, 32417, 32452, 31782, 31221, 32102, 32098, 31228, 31701, 31775, 32410, 32766, (Gen) 32659, 32242, (Cat 2A) 31665 (ST), 31696 (SC), 2) Estimate cost : **Min Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, Max Rs. 993.00 Lakhs** 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class IV and above PWD Registered contractor 4) EMD Amount Min. **Rs.21,200.00** and Max. **Rs.12,65,000.00,** 5) Pre Bid Meeting : **10.02.2026 (11.00 Hrs),** 6) Last date for quries : **11.02.2026 (17.30 Hrs)**, 7) Last date for Submission of Bid : **12.02.2026 (16.00 Hrs)**, 8) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : **13.02.2026 (16.30 Hrs)**, 9) Date of Opening of Financial Bid : **16.02.2026 (16.30 Hrs),** 10) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi. 11) **Note : GST will be paid Separately.** 12) **website: hpps: //kppp.karnataka.gov.in,** 13) Bidders Should Note That : **Note:** 1) Undersigned reserved the right to Cancel / Postpone/ Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason. 2) Changes in the tender process will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes in KPPP Portal Only.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1033/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26 Sd/-**Executive Engineer**
PWD Divison Kalaburagi

NEW WORLD ORDER Evolving alliances leave New Delhi on a diplomatic tightrope

Instability in West Asia tests India's strategic restraint

P R KUMARASWAMY

As the saying goes, West Asia is not for the faint of heart. Even by its own standards, the current turmoil is unprecedented. With the retrieval of the last hostage's remains from the October 7 attacks, Israel may finally close the hostage chapter. The fragile Gaza ceasefire that began last October can now move to the next stage, involving the disarming of Hamas, the gradual transfer of governance to a technocratic administration, and an Israeli military withdrawal.

The larger question concerns the willingness and composition of an International Stabilisation Force (ISF) to replace Hamas. While several countries have offered to contribute, the force's formation will be contentious. Israel is likely to demand normalisation as a condition for troop deployment, something countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh may find difficult to accept. Israel also has unresolved issues with Qatar and Türkiye over their past support for Hamas. More importantly, will the ISF have the mandate and capability to disarm Hamas if it resists, or will it be confined to peacekeeping rather than peace enforcement? There are more questions than answers.

Iran remains another major flashpoint, this time because of domestic unrest. What began as protests over economic grievances escalated into anti-regime protests. This is the third major protest against the clerical establishment since 1979 and the first directly driven by economic hardship. The regime is determined to survive, using force to stabilise the situation. According to some Iranian officials, up to 30,000 people were killed during January 8–9 alone.

The Iranian crackdown prompted US President Donald Trump to deploy American military assets in and around the Persian Gulf. Several Arab countries have warned against military action that could trigger wider regional consequences. Although Iran's proxies—Hamas, Hizballah, Houthis and the Popular Mobilisation Force—are weakened, Tehran still retains capabilities that could threaten US interests. Iran has also threatened to strike Tel Aviv in the event of a US attack.

At the same time, intra-Gulf Arab tensions have become more visible. For nearly a decade, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) and Emirati leader Mohammed bin Zayed (MbZ) shared close personal ties and coordinated policies. Recently, however, differences over Yemen have surfaced. Saudi military attacks in December on forces backed by the Emirates marked a turning point and led to the UAE's withdrawal from Yemen. Many now see this as a potential rupture in the MbS–MbZ relationship, with Riyadh seeking to curb growing Emirati influence.

Pakistan has also emerged as a more assertive actor in West Asia. Since independence, it has promoted the idea of an Islamic bloc, culminating in the formation of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, later renamed the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Dissatisfied with limited security cooperation with Saudi Arabia and Jordan, Pakistan pushed the idea of an Islamic NATO, particularly after the 1990–91 Kuwait crisis. Tensions with Riyadh over deploying a Sunni-only force to Yemen in 2015 led to speculation that Islamabad was exploring alternative alignments with Iran, Malaysia and Türkiye. The rise of ISIS, however, allowed Pakistan to join the Saudi-backed Islamic Military Alliance. Pakistan's ties with Türkiye remain strong. During the Cold War, both aligned with Western policies, and military dominance in politics helped cement close strategic relations. A notable recent development is Saudi Arabia's willingness to reconcile with Türkiye, indirectly advancing Pakistan's long-standing proposal for an Islamic NATO.

US Navy's Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln is currently stationed in the Arabian Sea amid tensions with Iran. US President Donald Trump had threatened to intervene militarily after a deadly crackdown by Iranian authorities on anti-government protests. AFP FILE

Amid these uncertainties and the possibility of a US–Iran confrontation, what options does India have? Hard-nosed realism suggests several measures.

India should position the UAE as a central pillar of its West Asia strategy. On key issues, including Israel and the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the two sides broadly converge. Recent Saudi-Emirati tensions may have unsettled MbZ, making Indian reassurance and diplomatic support valuable. Strategic surprises such as the Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement signed last September underline the need for stronger intelligence and accountability within South Block. Major diplomatic shifts do not occur overnight. If lapses have occurred, Prime Minister Narendra Modi should not hesitate to enforce bureaucratic corrections.

India has wisely avoided active participation in Trump's Gaza peace initiatives. While it sent a junior minister to the Sharm el-Sheikh summit in October, it has remained silent on Trump's Board of Peace. This restrained approach should continue, with India limiting public statements on West Asian issues. At the same time, Trump's Gaza plans offer Prime Minister Modi an opportunity to recalibrate India's approach by demonstrating a tangible commitment to Gaza's reconstruction. Making Gaza's rebuilding a key component of India's engagement with initiatives such as IMEEC and I2U2 would enhance its credibility.

India should also expand economic support for the Palestinians. This could include offering around 500 ICCR scholarships over five years, extending eligibility to Indian higher education institutions based in the UAE, and committing US$250 million to UNRWA over a decade.

Finally, India should work closely with Israel to ensure the success of economic and humanitarian projects in the Palestinian territories. Given President Mahmoud Abbas's health constraints, sustained engagement through senior Indian ministers is essential. The tension and conflict-filled West Asia presents India with opportunities to assume greater economic responsibilities. While India may not speak loudly or forcefully on major unfolding events, it should discreetly expand its influence through small but purposeful actions.

(The writer teaches contemporary Middle East at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi)

WORLD AT A GLANCE

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi hold a press conference after their bilateral meeting in Tokyo on Saturday. AFP

Explosion in Iran port city kills 1, wounds 14 before naval drill

An explosion tore through an apartment building Saturday in Iran's port city of Bandar Abbas, killing a 4-year-old girl as local media footage purportedly showed a security force member being carried out by rescuers, AP/PTI reports from Dubai.

The blast happened a day before a planned naval drill by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a fifth of all oil traded passes. Already, the US military had warned Iran not to threaten its warships or commercial traffic in the strait, on which Bandar Abbas sits. State television quoted a local fire official as blaming the blast on a gas leak. Media reported at least 14 others suffered injuries in the explosion at the eight-storey building. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard itself did not discuss the blast, other than to deny that a Guard navy commander had been hurt in the explosion.

Israeli strikes kill at least 30 in Gaza

Hospitals in Gaza said Israeli strikes killed at least 30 Palestinians on Saturday, one of the highest daily tolls since the October ceasefire aimed at stopping the fighting, AP/PTI reports from Deir Al-Balah.

A day after Israel accused Hamas of new ceasefire violations, strikes hit locations across Gaza, including deadly attacks on an apartment building in Gaza City and a tent camp in Khan Younis, officials at hospitals that received the bodies said. The casualties included two women and six children from two different families.

A painting of an angel at the Basilica of San Lorenzo resembling Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. AFP

I'm no angel, says Italian PM

Italy's prime minister, Giorgia Meloni, joked on Saturday she does not look like an angel, after a row blew up in the media over a restored fresco in a Rome church, AFP reports from Rome.

Some of Italy's press have been asking whether the premier served as inspiration for a cherub painted in a chapel in the San Lorenzo in Lucina basilica, located a few metres from the main building of the Italian government. The newspaper La Repubblica noted that, following recent renovations, one of the painted angels bears a resemblance to the blonde, diminutive leader.

80 dead as Pak battles militants

KARACHI, PTI: At least 70 militants, some of them from the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), and 10 security personnel were killed in attacks on security forces, law enforcement agencies and civilians at 12 locations across Pakistan's Balochistan province, officials said on Saturday.

Security force sources put the number of militants killed at 108. However, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti said in a post on X that 70 militants had been killed so far and that the operations, which began on Friday night, were still under way on Saturday evening.

Ten security personnel were also killed during the operations, which followed the killing of 41 militants in two separate counter-terror operations in Panjgur and Harnai districts on Thursday and Friday. Shahid Rind, spokesperson for the Balochistan government, said the attacks were carried out at multiple locations, including Quetta, Gwadar, Makran, Hub, Chaman and Naseerabad.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL, Forest Division, Almatti-586201. Tq:B.Bagewadi.
Dt: Vijayapur. Phone: 08426-281410
NO.KBJNL/DCF/BUD/DPT-/L.S/e-tender/2025-26/1299
Dated:29.01.2026

2nd Call SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (through e-procurement)

Ref: This office tender notification letter no: KBJNL/DCF/BUD/DTP/L.S/Tender/2025-26/1187 Date: 29.12.2025
On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL Bangalore, The Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL, Forest Division Almatti invites short term tender for Landscape works through e-procurement (KPPP-2) as per KTPP Act-1999 and Rules 2000 on Percentage basis from the eligible bidders for the work as detailed in table below. Bidders may get detailed information and terms and conditions to apply at website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (KBJNL Division Forest Division Almatti-Location) and in the above office. The tender processing Fee and EMD should be paid through KPPP-2 portal.

1) Table Showing the tender dates and timings
Calender of events:

Sl.No	Details	Tender Dates
1	Probable date of tender Publishing	28.01.2026 at 5.00 PM
2	Pre bid Meeting	13.02.2026 at 11.00 AM.
3	Last date for receiving the tender bids	17.02.2026 at 5.00 PM
4	Opening Technical bids	19.02.2026 at 11.00 AM
5	Opening Financial bids	21.02.2026 at 11.00 AM

Note: A Pre-bid review meeting for the works above one crore rupees will be held on dated 13.02.2026 at 11.00 AM in the Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL Forest Division, Almatti, the Contractor shall submit queries if any in writing to the undersigned office Dated: 12.02.2026 before 5.00 PM

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
KBJNL, Forest Division, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/649/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

New Epstein files name high-profile figures

No accusations of wrongdoing against high-profile figures

WASHINGTON, AFP

A fresh cache of files released on Friday related to the investigation into the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein contains documents referring to high-profile figures, including US President Donald Trump and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates.

Trump, Gates, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and British billionaire Richard Branson are among those named in the documents, none of whom has been accused of wrongdoing.

The documents include an FBI-compiled list of sexual assault allegations related to Trump, many of which involved anonymous callers and unverified tips. The material suggests investigators followed up on a number of the tips, although some were later deemed to lack credibility. Trump has long denied any wrongdoing.

Mira Nair's name appears

Indian filmmaker Mira Nair attended an "after-party" for a film at the townhouse of convicted sex trafficker Ghislaine Maxwell, according to the latest Epstein files released by the US Justice Department, PTI reports from New York.

Nair, the mother of New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, is mentioned in one of the emails included in additional investigation files related to millionaire sex offender Jeffrey Epstein that were made public by the Department of Justice on Friday. "Just left Ghislaine's townhouse... after-party for film. Bill Clinton and Jeff Bezos were there... Jean Pigozzi, director Mira Nair... etc. Film received tepid reaction although women like it much more... Hillary Swank and Gere at stupid party in Bloomingdale's cheap sportswear department... very weird. PTI sent a message to Nair for a comment but has not received a response yet.

Bill Gates on Russian girls

In a draft email included among the files, Epstein alleged that Gates had engaged in extramarital affairs. Epstein wrote that his relationship with Gates had ranged from "helping Bill to get drugs, in order to deal with consequences of sex with Russian girls, to facilitating his illicit trysts with married women". The Gates Foundation denied the allegations.

The files also indicate friendly relations between Epstein and Branson. In an email sent to Epstein on September 11, 2013, Branson wrote: "It was really nice seeing you yesterday. The boys in Watersports can't stop speaking about it! Any time you're in the area would love to see you. As long as you bring your harem!"

A spokesperson for Branson's company said any contact Richard and Joan Branson had with Epstein occurred on only a few occasions more than 12 years ago and was limited to group or business settings.

Landslide kills 200 in Congo

GOMA (CONGO), AP/PTI: A landslide earlier this week collapsed several mines at a major coltan mining site in eastern Congo, killing at least 200 people, rebel authorities said on Saturday.

The collapse occurred on Wednesday at the Rubaya mines, which are controlled by M23 rebels, Lumumba Kambere Muyisa, spokesperson for the rebel-appointed governor of North Kivu province, told The Associated Press. He said the landslide was caused by heavy rainfall. "For now, there are more than 200 dead, some of whom are still in the mud and have not yet been recovered," Muyisa said.

PoK 'President' Chaudhry dies

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, "President" of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), died on Saturday after battling illness for several months. He was 71. He was suffering from liver cancer and was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Islamabad.

SU DO KU X - 3814

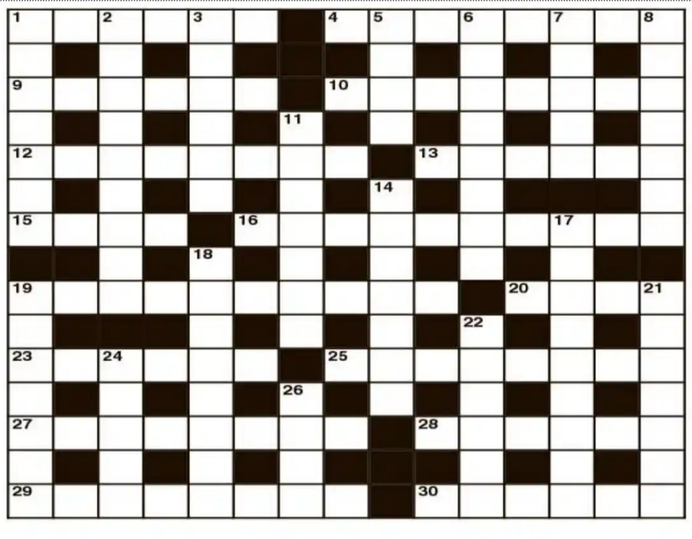
9								
						5	2	
		4			3			
2					5			
	5		1	8				
4	3						9	
					6			
1								2
							3	7

SOLUTION TO 3813

9	4	7	2	6	5	1	8	3
1	5	6	3	4	8	2	7	9
2	8	3	1	9	7	5	4	6
5	6	4	8	2	9	3	1	7
8	7	2	5	1	3	6	9	4
3	1	9	6	7	4	8	2	5
6	9	8	4	5	2	7	3	1
7	2	5	9	3	1	4	6	8
4	3	1	7	8	6	9	5	2

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2665 ◆



ACROSS
1 Conquer (6)
4 Spanish cold tomato soup (8)
9 Have ambition (6)
10 Test public opinion (3,1,4)
12 The Last Judgment (8)
13 Evaluate (6)
15 Extol (4)
16 Mozart's last opera (5,5)
19 Achieve desired result (2,3,5)
20 6 June 1944 (1-3)
23 Child's cot on rockers (6)
25 Thorny hedging shrub (8)
27 Mundane (3-2-3)
28 Art style created by Picasso (6)
29 Scatter in all directions (8)
30 Element in person's character (6)

DOWN
1 An outrage (7)
2 A spin-off (2-7)
3 Disquiet (6)
5 Supporter in a cause (4)
6 Take no chances (4,4)
7 South American country (5)
8 Supervise (7)
11 Gruesome (7)
14 A container for liquids (7)
17 Exposed to criticism (5,4)
18 Cooked all the way through (4-4)
19 Positive (7)
21 A type of facial veil (7)
22 Brusque (6)
24 Deep chasm (5)
26 Roman god of war (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4025

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 9, So-help-me 10, Sir(e) 11, Maroon 12, A-ng-ela 13, Dead air 14, (di)Vine(d) 15, Kid oneself 17, Mobilise 18, A-g-it-ate 19, Open 21, B-O-ring 24, Plumbing the depths 27, M-ash-I-e 29, Hoot 30, Stretch 33, Co-worker 35, Respecting 36, Etna (rev) 37, Declare 38, Pal-try 40, Follow 41, E-a-t 42, Scar-city.
DOWN: 1, Rounding up 2, Peke (peak) 3, Ap-parent 4, Meddles (medals) 5, Broad-minded 6, Improbable 7, Drive-L 8, Goings-on 10, Staff 16, Out-rush 20, Pati-O 22, Re-treat 23, In-char-acter 25, Breaks down 26, Second-rate 28, Ado-ption 31, T-he's-pian 32, Aspers-E 34, O-rally 35, Roast 39, Lick.

EASY
ACROSS: 9, Quandary 10, Leo 11, Plaque 12, Assent 13, Samurai 14, Arid 15, Equanimity 17, Inimical 18, Vertigo 19, Idea 21, Treaty 24, Turn the other cheek 27, Gander 29, Dare 30, Glutton 33, Chaplain 35, Crispbread 36, Oral 37, Illness 38, Turn up 40, Esteem 41, Dip 42, Ancestry.
DOWN: 1, Subsequent 2, Knee 3, Farthing 4, Gymslip 5, Coordinates 6, Optimistic 7, Salami 8, Jubilant 10, Lumpy 16, Attired 20, Deter 22, Elector 23, Leading lady 25, Terra firma 26, Kookaburra 28, Aphorism 31, Lipstick 32, Kinsman 34, Pullet 35, Cheap 39, Rusk.

ADVERSE CONDITIONS Rising temperatures & receding snowlines are impacting sport, but we are part of the issue

Sport in the time of GLOBAL WARMING

Winter Olympics could soon become a critically endangered event due to climate change. REUTERS

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

One, two, three steps backward. She steadies herself. Two steps forward. Steady. Then she collapses backward... The harsh summer sun took its toll on a ball girl at the Australian Open in Melbourne, and it was there for everyone to see.

In Italy, the real life counterparts of Tina and Milo, the ermine and stoat mascots of the upcoming 2026 Winter Olympics, face existential threat in the Alps as their snow cover slowly melts away due to climate change. In fact, till last week, the hosts were contemplating importing tons of snow to hold the Games.

The two incidents occurred 16,000 kilometers apart, but are bound by a common issue of global warming that's negatively impacting every sphere of our life, and sport isn't exclusive to this churn.

At the beginning of the sporting calendar each year, especially after the devastating Australian bushfires and Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the first tennis Grand Slam Downunder has become a reminder of the effects of a changing climate on the world of sport. First to introduce the heat stress scale in 2019 under their extreme heat policy, instances of ball kids fainting, players cramping and nauseating, early starts to matches or contests being suspended – all due to rising temperatures – have become increasingly regular at the Aus Open.

The trend, now glaring more than ever before, is unsettling. And without wasting a minute, David Goldblatt, sports writer, football historian and climate activist, gets straight into the crux of the matter when questioned.

"We talk and worry about what will happen to the Australian Open because of global warming. But the biggest threat of all, I think, is for grassroots sport," the 60-year-old Briton tells *DHoS*.

At the Club World Cup held in the USA last year, a cooling break at the end of each half of matches was given. Experts warn about extreme heat that could put health at risk during the FIFA World Cup to be jointly held in USA, Mexico and Canada this summer. X

"Manchester United will be fine. However, the Football Association in England calculated that around 2,00,000 games were cancelled last year due to bad weather. That's a lot of grassroots football. The great waves have affected the USA, Japan or South Korea already, where we have seen abandonment of school sports. This could see less kids taking up sports. And that's a tragedy," points Goldblatt.

Closer home, even the most religiously followed sport in the country has little mercy from the weather gods. According to several curators, it is becoming tougher to prepare well-groomed pitches due to unpredictable climate and one tiny blip in their calculations, dependent on the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), could mean drastic change in the behaviour of the 22-yard strip directly affecting the outcome of a match.

The grim situation saw Sebastian Coe, president of World Athletics, remark that the 'international calendar for Olympic sports may need to be re-engineered because of climate change' following a rather 'scorching' World Athletics Championships in Tokyo in 2025.

The strikingly prominent casualty of all are winter sports. If the previous edition of the Winter Olympics in Beijing, China, relied on 100% artificial snow for all outdoor events, this edition's hosts – Milano Cortina in Italy (slated from February 6 to 22) - were planning to use over 3 million cubic yards of machine-made snow due to declining natural snowfall. However, a delayed snowfall last week, has given the organisers some hope.

With the entire sporting ecosystem experiencing the repercussions of an uncontrollable variable, what are the consequences on an athlete's body, mind and performance? A closer look at professional cyclists ahead of a Tour de France will tell you how training methods have been altered to combat spikes in temperature. From active/ passive heat training to strategic dehydration/ cooling sessions, competitors undergo dedicated training programmes ahead of big races.

"Basically this is another piece of the puzzle. It would be kind of remiss of us to not be aware of how big a factor the impact of climate and temperature is," begins Spencer Mackay, head of performance at JSW Sports, who has trained the likes of double Olympic medal-winning javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra.

"To break it down simply, we try and get someone's aerobic fitness up to be able to lower the heart rate so they can be more efficient or we try and develop someone's anaerobic fitness to be able to produce really high power output or energy when there's less oxygen available.

"Then there is the acclimatisation and acclimation.. In terms of being at a venue well in advance of a competition to get used to the temperate conditions, time zone change, accommodation, food. This is the key. So players coming into the Aus Open would be aware of what they could face and would have prepared accordingly," explains Scotsman Mackay.

Right. That was one side of the story. But what about the other side of the coin? The part about sports' growing carbon footprint on the environment.

Researchers have estimated that the sports industry is responsible for approximately 300-350 million tonnes of CO_2e (Carbon Dioxide Equivalent) that's roughly 0.6% to 1% of total global emissions with FIFA World Cup and Olympic Games emitting 3-4 million tonnes of CO_2e. While international travel is the main culprit, sports infrastructure and waste generated from big events are the other factors.

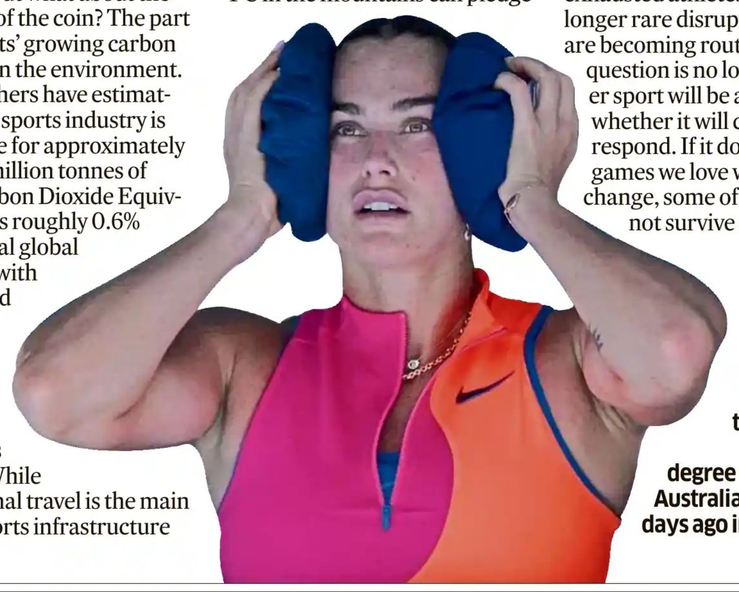
"Looking on the positive side of things, the Paris 2024 were probably the most environmentally sophisticated Olympic Games that were held with a real, serious and sustained effort to bring its giant carbon footprint under control. The Bundesliga (German football league), is another example. Teams have to demonstrate that they have an environmental policy that is active. Such critical criteria have to become the norm at global, national and regional levels," says Goldblatt.

Speaking of which, this is where India, going through a booming sporting culture, becomes a driving force of green movement. But how? Climate11 Summit – Asia's only conference on impact of climate change on sport – held last year in Delhi has led the way. Founded by Shamim Meraj, journalist and also the ex co-owner of Real Kashmir FC and co-founder of Ladakh FC, it was at the summit where a declaration on environmental sustainability in Indian sport was made.

"When a tiny little Ladakh FC in the mountains can pledge something this huge, why can't others?," questions Goldblatt, who was part of the conference. "First and foremost, the BCCI needs to sign up to the United Nation's Sports for Climate Action framework where sports organisations commit to carbon neutrality by 2040 and halving their emissions by 2030. It's important that they don't merely join, but we actually hear India and the global south's voice in the conversations that are going on, because at the moment it's only the Japanese talking to Danes talking to Canadians.

"Then, sporting events need to make use of India's mind, start-ups who make cutlery out of wood, bamboo etc to replace single-use plastic. And finally, get star athletes to speak on the issue. I wish people listened to the poets, novelists and the climate scientists, but no one's listening to those guys. They are listening to (Sachin) Tendulkar. You know what I mean?," says Goldblatt.

In sport, margins are measured in milliseconds and millimetres. Against climate change, there are no such luxuries. Hotter days, disappearing snow, cancelled matches and exhausted athletes are no longer rare disruptions; they are becoming routine. So, the question is no longer whether sport will be affected, but whether it will choose to respond. If it doesn't, the games we love won't just change, some of them may not survive at all.



Aryna Sabalenka uses ice packs to cool off on a day when temperatures soared to 45 degree Celsius at the Australian Open a few days ago in Melbourne. REUTERS

CLIMATE CONUNDRUM

- At the first Grand Slam of the year -- the Australian Open -- the 'heat stress' rating hit highest level of five with 45 degree Celsius.
- Retreating snowlines have forced the Winter Olympics organisers in Italy to rely on machine-made snow for skiing, snowboarding and ski jumping.
- Studies suggest that 14 out of 16 stadiums during the FIFA World Cup in USA-Mexico-Canada later this year will fall under 'high-risk' venues due to potentially dangerous levels of heat.
- Temperatures crossed 30 degree Celsius with humidity above 90% with marathons being the worst affected during the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo last year.

Time And Tide wins Sprinters Championship

MUMBAI RESULTS

Suraj Narredu-ridden Time And Tide, from the stables of Adhirajsingh Jodha, won the Dr SC Jain Sprinters Championship, the feature event of the Mumbai races on Saturday.

1. Forest Flair Trophy - 1000M: Ekla Cholo (Faisal Abbas) Trevor Patel 1; Lickety Split (A.Prakash) 2; Between Friends (P.Dhebe) 3; Ananya (Ramswarup) 4; Not Run: Gibson Knott. Wb: 3/4, Lnk, 1/2L. T: 0:59.24. TB: Faisal Abbas. Fav: Ekla Cholo.

2. Enigma Trophy - 1600M: Zafferano (K.N.Dhunjibhoy) Trevor Patel 1; Tyrannus (Akshay Kumar) 2; Black Thunder (Ramswarup) 3; Matisse (Tom Marquand) 4; Wb: 2, 1L, Shd. T: 1:37.47. TB: Adhirajsingh Jodha. Fav: Matisse.

3. Dancing Prances Trophy - 1000M: Gunfire (Sanjay Kothari) Yash Narredu1; Ghost Of Victory (Trevor Patel) 2; Phantom Strike (Ajinkya) 3; Shadai (Mukesh Kumar) 4; Wb: 3-1/2, 1-1/2L, Shd. T: 0:58.65. TB: Mallesh Narredu. Fav: Gunfire.

4. Oyster Cove Ttophy - 2400M: Diego Garcia (.R.Sanas) Suraj Narredu1; Little John (Trevor Patel) 2; Caccini (C.S.Jodha) 3; Renoir (A.Prakash) 4; Not Run: Brasiler. Wb: 1-1/2, 1/2, 1/2L. T: 2:33.95. TB: Adhirajsingh Jodha. Fav: Ektarina.

5. Dr SC Jain Sprinters Championship - 1200M: Time And Tide (Vikram Bacchwat) Suraj Narredu 1; Dream Seller (Mukesh Kumar) 2; Miss American Pie (David Allan) 3; Credence (Yash Narredu) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, Shd, 1-3/4L. T: 1:08.70. TB: Adhirajsingh Jodha. Fav: Time And Tide.

6. Weizhou Trophy - 1600M: Algonquin (Geoffrey Nagpal) Trevor Patel 1; Beyond Stars (Zervan) 2; Flash Mob (Umesh) 3; It's My Way (Bhawani Singh) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, 2, 1-3/4L. T: 1:38.68. TB: D.Todywalla. Fav: Algonquin.

7. Captain Courage Trophy - 1200M: Charlie Brown (Mukul Sonawala) Akshay Kumar 1; Skandha (TS Jodha) 2; Heaven's Rhythm (Yash Narredu) 3; Mulan (Trevor Patel) 4; Wb: 2, Hd, 3-1/2L. T: 1:10.27. TB: Imtiaz Sait. Fav: Skandha.

Bengaluru dividends:

I race: Rs 14w; 10, 26, 28p; Fc: Rs 87; Q: Rs 73; Shp: Rs 67; Thp: Rs 76; Tri: Rs 832 & 414; Ex: Rs 1,938 & 457.

II race: Rs 22w; 12, 22, 16p; Fc: Rs 160; Q: Rs 123; Shp: Rs 43; Thp: Rs 33; Tri: Rs 644 & 324; Ex: Rs 1,356 & 380.

III race: Rs 16w; 10, 15, 15p; Fc: Rs 53; Q: Rs 27; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 35; Tri: Rs 155 & 61; Ex: Rs 1,332 & 904.

IV race: Rs 36w; 11, 17, 25p; Fc: Rs 216; Q: Rs 115; Shp: Rs 39; Thp: Rs 73; Tri: Rs 2,696 & 1,733; Ex: Rs 8,364 & 7,169.

V race: Rs 16w; 10, 45, 16p; Fc: Rs 610; Q: Rs 416; Shp: Rs 162; Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 1,383 & 530; Ex: Rs 16,663 & 4,761.

VI race: Rs 17w; 13, 47, 40p; Fc: Rs 444; Q: Rs 271; Shp: Rs 184; Thp: Rs 104; Tri: Rs 16,586 & 3,544; Ex: Rs 56,863 (c/o).

VII race: Rs 33w; 15, 14, 19p; Fc: Rs 252; Q: Rs 68; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 51; Tri: Rs 447 & 259; Ex: Rs 2,730 & 1,716.

Jackpot: Rs 3,154 (152).

Runner-Up: Rs 152 (2582).

Treble: Rs 265 (364).

TENNIS AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Rybakina serves a revenge

Kazakh beats Sabalenka in the final to win her second Grand Slam title

MELBOURNE, AFP

Elena Rybakina took revenge over world number one Aryna Sabalenka to win a nail-biting Australian Open final on Saturday and clinch her second Grand Slam title.

The big-serving Kazakh fifth seed held her nerve to pull through 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 at Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne in 2hrs 18mins.

It was payback after the Belarusian Sabalenka won the 2023 final between two of the hardest hitters in women's tennis.

The ice-cool Rybakina, 26, who was born in Moscow, adds her Melbourne triumph to her Wimbledon win in 2022.

"Hard to find the words now," said Rybakina, and then addressed her beaten opponent to add: "I know it is tough, but I hope we play many more finals together."

Turning to some Kazakh fans in the crowd, she said: "Thank you so much to Kazakhstan. I felt the support from that corner a lot."

It was more disappointment in a major final for Sabalenka, who won the US Open last year for the second time but lost the French Open and Melbourne title deciders.

She was into her fourth Australian Open final in a row and had been imperious until now, with tears in her eyes at the end.

"Let's hope maybe next year will be a better year for me," runner-up Sabalenka said.

Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina kisses the trophy after her victory against Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka in the women's singles final of the Australian Open in Melbourne on Saturday. AFP

Result: Finals: Women: Singles: 1-Aryna Sabalenka (BLR) lt to 5-Elena Rybakina (Kaz) 4-6, 6-4, 4-6.

Doubles: 7-Anna Danilina (Kaz)/ Aleksandra Krunic (SRB) lt to 4-Zhang Shuai (CHN)/Elise Mertens (Bel) 6-7 (4), 4-6.

Men: Doubles: Jason Kubler/Marc Polmans (Aus) lt to 6-Christian Harrison (USA)/ Neal Skupski (GBR) 6-7 (4), 4-6.

Mixed doubles: Olivia Gadecki/ JohnPeers (Aus) bt Kristina Mladenovic/ Manuel Guinard (USA) 4-6, 6-3, 10-8.

Arsenal thrash listless Leeds

LEEDS, AFP

Arsenal settled any fears of a wobble in their pursuit of a first Premier League title in 22 years by winning 4-0 at Leeds on Saturday.

The Gunners' advantage over Manchester City and Aston Villa, who are both in action on Sunday, stretches to seven points as Mikel Arteta's men took another step towards the title.

A first home defeat of the season last weekend to Manchester United capped a run of just two points from a possible nine in Arsenal's previous three league games.

After finishing runners-up for the past three seasons, questions were raised over the mentality of Arteta's men to get over the line in a title race.

The visitors were dealt another blow as Bukayo Saka was injured in the warm-up.

Noni Madueke's cross was headed in by Martin Zubimendi **(in pic)** to open the scoring.

Results: Leeds: 0 lt to Arsenal: 4 (Zubimendi 27th, Darlow 38th own goal, Gyokeres 69th, Jesus 86th), Wolves: 0 lt to Bournemouth: 2 (Kroupi 33rd, Scott 90th+1), Brighton: 1 (Gross 73rd) drew with Everton: 1 (Beto 97th).

Ankita downs Akanksha in straight sets

MUMBAI, PTI: Ankita Raina on Saturday defeated Akanksha Nitture in straight sets 6-2, 6-1 on the first day of the Mumbai Open 125K Series here to make a winning start.

The other winners of the day were Kristina Sidorova, Kulikova Anastasia, Zuzzana Pawlikowska, Matsuda Misaki, Nicole Fossa Huergo, Peangtarn Plipuech and Yasmine Kabbaj.

Sidorova defeated the 26-year-old Zeel Desai 6-2, 6-0 to advance to the next qualifying round.

Meanwhile Finland's Kulikova Anastasia eased past Naoko Eto, winning both the sets 6-0.

Fynbos favourite for feature race

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

Pesi Shroff-trained Fynbos will garner the maximum support in the Villoo C Poonawalla Indian Derby, the richest event in the racing calendar, among the races to be held here on Sunday at Mahalakshmi.

The races start at 2:15 pm.

1. Tattersalls Million - 1400M: Don Jjlio 1, Vincero 2, Renaissance 3.

2. Keki D. Mehta Memorial Million - 1600M: Puccini 1, Alexios 2, Radiant Reign 3.

3. Rusi Patel Trophy - 1600M: Ravishing Beauty 1, Santissimo 1, African Gold 3.

4. Sir Homi Mehta Million - 1200M: Lady Scarlet 1, Rambo 2, Beast Mode 3.

5. Thackers Eclipse Stakes Of India - 2000M: Psychic Star 1, Thalassa 2, Regina Memorabilis 3.

6. Rattoensey Multi-Million - 1400M: Buckingham 1, D'Artagnan 2, Nebula 3.

7. Villoo C Poonawalla Indian Derby - 2400M: Fynbos 1, Baychimo 2, Zacharias 3.

8. Coromandel Gromor Million - 1200M: Big Bay 1, Western Star 2, Social Butterfly 3.

9. Queen Of Necklace Million - 1200M: Ministry Of Time 1, Desert Classic 2, Tropical Paradise 3.

Day's best: Lady Scarlet. **I Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **II Jackpot:** 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9.

I Treble: 3, 4 & 5. **II Treble:** 6, 7 & 8.

III Treble: 7, 8 & 9.

TTFI clarifies Mehta's suspension

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) on Saturday said the decision on suspending its secretary general Kamlesh Mehta was taken after an "exhaustive and record-based review" of serious procedural breaches, governance failures, and financial irregularities, and not due to internal politics.

Vice-president Raju Duggal said the executive committee has, in accordance with the federation's constitution, unanimously approved the decision.

The TTFI said Mehta unilaterally convened a Special General Meeting (SGM) on January 17, despite a duly notified Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for January 28, and "permitted constitutionally impermissible business to be transacted" in the SGM.

ISL clubs seek cost relief

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

All Indian Super League (ISL) clubs, including Bengaluru FC, have written to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, seeking urgent intervention to stabilise the league—whose truncated season is slated to start February 14 — amid mounting financial and structural uncertainty.

In a detailed letter submitted on Friday, the clubs flagged expense overruns, lack of commercial clarity and governance uncertainty as key threats to the league's sustainability.

The clubs pointed to the absence of a credible commercial partner — AIFF's hunt for the same is on with February 1 being the last date to submit the bid — with broadcast-linked revenues and sponsorship inflows remaining unpredictable.

KEY REQUESTS

- Stay on relegation for the next three to five seasons
- Waiver or subsidy on stadium rentals, utilities among others
- Relief on security-related expenses
- Reduction or waiver of broadcast-related costs
- Financial backing from PSUs in the absence of sponsorship
- Temporary relaxation of club licensing norms for the current season

The clubs made many crucial requests for the season and beyond, crucially asking for a stay on relegation for the next three to five years, waiver or subsidy on stadium and practice ground fees, security-related cost, broadcast-related fees for the current season and temporary funding from the public sector in the absence of private sponsors.

The most significant demand is a temporary freeze on relegation. Citing structural instability and the Justice L Nageswara Rao Committee's November 2025 report, the clubs argued that a defined stabilisation period would protect investor confidence and help the league regain economic predictability during a phase of transition.

Most ISL clubs use government-owned stadiums and training facilities and have sought a waiver or subsidy on rental, utilities, pitch maintenance and training facility fees for the next three seasons. They have also requested similar relief on mandatory security expenses, including police, fire and civic services which they say have significantly increased matchday costs.

Cummins out of Aus WC squad

MELBOURNE, PTI: Australia suffered a huge blow on Saturday as premier pacer Pat Cummins was ruled out of the upcoming T20 World Cup due to an injury, forcing the national selectors to pick Ben Dwarshuis in his place in a 15-member squad.

Cummins, 32, has not recovered fully from his lingering back injury and will miss the tournament that begins in India and Sri Lanka on February 7, while top-order batter Matthew Short has also been omitted from the original 15-player squad.

Matthew Renshaw comes in for Short who was listed in the initial provisional squad.

Cummins had initially been named in Australia's provisional squad.

Australian squad: Mitchell Marsh (c), Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis, Cameron Green, Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Renshaw, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa.

Curran 'tricks in England's win

PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA), AFP: England underlined that they are among the front-runners for the upcoming T20 World Cup, as they ground out an 11-run victory over Sri Lanka on the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method in the opening T20 international at Pallekele on Friday.

Sam Curran was the game changer, claiming a hat-trick as Sri Lanka were skittled for 133 in 16.2 overs.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 133 all out in 16.2 overs (Kusal Mendis 37; Sam Curran 3-38, Jamie Overton 2-17, Liam Dawson 2-31, Adil Rashid 3-19) It to England: 125/4 in 15 overs (Philip Salt 46, Tom Banton 29; Eshan Malinga 2-24). **Result:** England won by 11 runs via DLS method. **Series:** England lead three-match series 1-0. **PoM:** Adil Rashid.

IN BRIEF

K'taka girls crowned champs

▸ One goal apiece by Rukshana and Subhathra A, ably aided an own goal by their opponents, helped Karnataka score a 3-0 win over Kerala to be crowned champions of the Under-13 South Zone Asmita Khelo India football tournament, reports DHNS.

Karnataka and Kerala have qualified for the nationals round to begin shortly.

Results: Karnataka: 3 (Rukshana 23rd, Subhathra A 54th, Aadiya Dinesh 53rd OG) bt Kerala: 0; Andhra Pradesh: 4 (Gudde Gari Sreelatha 3rd, Reddy Boina Maithili 7th, 10th, Shaik Roshini Taj 26th) bt Andaman: 0.

Anahat enters semifinals

▸ Indian teenage star Anahat Singh rallied from 0-2 down to stun second seed Sana Ibrahim of Egypt 8-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-7 in the women's singles quarterfinals of the Squash on Fire Open in Washington, reports PTI from New Delhi.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

WPL: Delhi Capitals vs UP Warriorz **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

U-19 WC: India vs Pakistan **(super six, 1 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2, JioHotstar.**

2nd T20I: Sri Lanka vs England **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Ranji Trophy: Punjab vs Karnataka, Haryana vs Bengal, Mumbai vs Delhi **(day 4, all 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel, JioHotstar.**

TENNIS

Australian Open: Men's final **(2 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Manchester United vs Fulham, Aston Villa vs Brentford, Nottingham Forest vs Crystal Palace **(all 7:30 pm)**, Tottenham Hotspur vs Manchester City **(10 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

La Liga: Real Madrid vs Rayo Vallecano **(6:30 pm)**, Real Betis vs Valencia CF **(8:45 pm)**, Getafe CF vs RC Celta **(11 pm)**Athletic Club vs Real Sociedad **(1:30 am, Monday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

BADMINTON

Thailand Masters: Finals **(10:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

CRICKET FIFTH T20I

India prevail in run-thon

Kishan consolidates his spot with a hundred as hosts clinch series 4-1

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PTI

Ishan Kishan's thrill-a-second maiden T20I hundred compensated for Sanju Samson's familiar failure, and the knock in conjunction with Arshdeep Singh's fifer scripted India's 46-run romp over New Zealand in the fifth and final match here on Saturday.

India thus sealed the series 4-1, and wrapped up their preparations to defend the T20 World Cup title on a highly satisfactory note.

Once India made a humongous 271 for five, riding on Kishan's (103, 43 balls, 6x4, 10x6) and skipper Suryakumar Yadav's (63, 30b, 4x4, 6x6), only the margin of victory was needed to be known.

The Kiwis fought gamely in pockets, but eventually finished with 225 all out.

For hosts India, pacer Arshdeep regrouped from his early travails to take a delightful five-wicket haul (5/51).

He had conceded 40 runs in his first two overs for the wicket of Tim Seifert, but then took four wickets in the next three overs for a mere 11 runs.

Fin Allen (80, 38b) played a powerful innings upfront but the target was always outside the Kiwis' grasp.

Allen, the top-scorer in the recently concluded Big Bash League, carried that form to the Greenfield Stadium.

The right-hander put pacer Arshdeep through the shredder, collecting two fours and a six in the opening over of the Kiwis' innings.

Soon, Allen clubbed the Indian pacer for 4, 4, 6, 4, 4 in his second over to make 23 runs in total. Allen, who reached his sixth T20I fifty in 22 balls, fell to returning left-arm spinner Axar Patel (3/33), ending a second wicket alliance of 100 runs with Rachin Ravindra (30, 17b).

In fact, both the spinners -- Axar and Varun Chakravarthy (1/36) -- did a commendable job in reining in New Zealand after the powerplay.

Indian players celebrate with the trophy after beating New Zealand by 46 runs in the fifth and final T20I at the Greenfield International Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. PTI

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Abhishek b Ferguson	30
Samson c Jacobs b Ferguson	6
Kishan c Phillips b Duffy	103
Suryakumar st Seifert b Santner	63
Hardik c Jacobs b Jamieson	42
Rinku (not out)	8
Dube (not out)	7
Extras (NB-2, W-10)	12
TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 20 overs)	**271**

Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-48, 3-185, 4-233, 5-261.

Bowling: Duffy 4-0-53-1, Jamieson 4-0-59-1, Ferguson 4-0-41-2, Sodhi 3-0-48-0, Phillips 1-0-10-0, Santner 4-0-60-1.

NEW ZEALAND

Seifert c Hardik b Arshdeep	5
Allen c Rinku b Axar	80
Rachin c Axar b Arshdeep	30
Phillips c Rinku b Axar	7
Mitchell b Arshdeep	26
Santner c Suryakumar b Arshdeep.	0
Jacobs b Varun	7
Jamieson b Arshdeep	9
Sodhi c Arshdeep b Rinku	33
Ferguson b Axar	3
Duffy (not out)	9
Extras (B-8, LB-4, W-4)	16
TOTAL (all out, 19.4 overs)	**225**

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-117, 3-131, 4-137, 5-137, 6-166, 7-179, 8-180, 9-191.

Bowling: Arshdeep 4-0-51-5, Hardik 2-0-15-0, Bumrah 4-0-58-0, Varun 4-0-36-1, Axar 4-0-33-3, Abhishek 1-0-13-0, Rinku 0-4-0-7-1.

Result: India win by 46 runs.
Series: India win 5-match series 4-1.
PoM: Ishan Kishan.
PoS: Suryakumar Yadav.

Samson fails again

But none entertained a full weekend house more than Kishan on a sultry evening, who came in after the early departures of Samson and Abhishek Sharma.

Samson (6), whose fifth successive failure in this series now casts a huge shadow over his T20 World Cup prospects could not get going, falling to pacer Lockie Ferguson. If he needed a more ominous sign then Kishan later kept the wickets too.

India eye revenge against Pakistan

BULAWAYO, PTI

Vaibhav Suryavanshi

Five-time champions India will look to avenge their humiliating Asia Cup final loss against arch-rivals Pakistan when the two teams lock horns in a Super Six match of the ICC Men's U-19 World Cup here on Sunday.

India lost to Pakistan by 191 runs in the Under-19 Asia Cup final in Dubai, on December 21 last after winning the group match of the same tournament against the arch-rivals by 90 runs on December 14.

And come Sunday, the Ayush Mhatre-led Indian side would be itching for a revenge of that loss.

India are also likely to continue with their 'no handshake' policy with Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack and the ensuing Operation Sindoor carried out by the Indian Armed Forces.

The Indian Under-19 team avoided the post-match handshake with Pakistan in the final of the U-19 Asia Cup. The Indians had also skipped the gesture during the two sides' group stage match of that tournament as well.

It has been a dominant run for India so far in the Under-19 World Cup. But in Pakistan, a strong opponent awaits India next up and the big loss in the Asia Cup final would be haunting the Mhatre-led side.

Tilak set for CoE clearance, to join Indian team in Mumbai

NEW DELHI, PTI: Swashbuckling India batter Tilak Varma is set to be cleared by the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru after making a successful recovery from a groin injury.

A BCCI source told PTI on Saturday that Tilak is going to be released from CoE and he will link up with the Indian team in Mumbai on February 3, giving the side a massive boost days before the T20 World Cup gets underway across venues in India and Sri Lanka from February 7.

"He has regained full match fitness," the source said.

After undergoing surgery for a groin injury on January 7, Varma has been training at the CoE. He was scheduled to participate in a simulation match on Friday to receive final fitness clearance.

The development means the 23-year-old batter is expected to be available for the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Karnataka stare at an uphill task

Padikkal's men have to do all the running against Punjab with just a day left

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's crisis man Shreyas Gopal (77, 195b, 6x4) waged a lone battle with the bat to give his team a slender seven-run first innings lead but Punjab appeared determined to deny visitors a win on the third day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group B fixture in Mohali on Saturday.

Resuming from their overnight 255 for six, tourists Karnataka were in danger of conceding the first innings honours after slipping to 281 for eight with Sukhdeep Bajwa (3/42) and Harpreet Brar (4/125) sharing seven wickets for an already knocked out Punjab.

But Shreyas and Mohsin Khan (10, 34b, 1x6) added 26 runs for the ninth wicket as Karnataka notched up 316 all out in 110.2 overs, replying to Punjab's 309.

In their second innings, Punjab were 119/3 in 45 overs when stumps were drawn, leading by 112 runs. Skipper Uday Saharan (63 n.o., 110b, 4x4, 2x6) and Anmolpreet Singh (6 n.o., 40b) made sure there were no further hiccups after Karnataka prised out three wickets.

Karnataka are now left with a mountain to climb on the final day, desperately hoping an early end to Punjab's second innings with bad light threat looming large.

Earlier, the first session was completely wiped out due to morning fog as early lunch was called at 11:30 am, and the day's proceedings only got underway at 12:10 pm.

Vidyadhar Patil (34, 83b) was the first to depart having added 11 runs to his overnight score and was caught by Anmol Malhotra off Sukhdeep, having stitched a crucial 66-run partnership with Shreyas.

Sukhdeep struck again two overs later as Shikhar Shetty (1) was caught off Brar.

However, like he has done all season, Shreyas dug deep and played out 9.4 overs with Mohsin for the ninth wicket to take Karnataka past the 300-mark.

The pendulum swung again as Anmoljeet got rid of Shreyas to reduce Karnataka to 307/9. But a nine-run tenth-wicket stand handed Karnataka some joy in a war they were losing.

Anmoljeet castled Mohsin in the 111th over later to bring the curtains down on Karnataka's innings, but they had done just enough to at least churn out three points from the contest.

Not too far away from the IS Bindra Stadium, Saurashtra beat Chandigarh by an innings and 56 runs and jumped to the second spot with 26 points.

Madhya Pradesh, meanwhile, booked their last-eight spot from Group B with a 133-run win over Maharashtra, taking their points tally to an unassailable 28.

Shreyas Gopal scored 77 to give Karnataka a seven-run first innings lead in their Ranji Trophy fixture against Punjab in Mohali. DH FILE PHOTO

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB (I Innings): 309 all out.
KARNATAKA (I Innings O/n: 255/6): Shreyas Gopal c Bajwa b Anmoljeet 77 (195b, 6x4), Vidyadhar Patil c Anmol b Bajwa 34 (83b, 6x4), Shikhar Shetty c Brar b Bajwa 1 (7b), Mohsin Khan b Anmoljeet 10 (24b, 1x6), Prasidh Krishna (not out) 3 (11b). Extras (B-2, LB-5, W-1) 8. **TOTAL (all out, 110.2 overs) 316.**
Fall of wickets: 7-279 (Vidyadhar), 8-281 (Shikhar), 9-307 (Shreyas).
Bowling: Ayush Goyal 3-1-8-0, Sukhdeep Singh Bajwa 16-6-42-3, Harpreet Brar 39-6-125-4, Emanjot Singh Chahal 27-7-65-1, Anmoljeet Singh 24.2-5-62-2, Uday Saharan 1-0-7-0.
PUNJAB (II Innings): Abhijeet Garg c Prasidh b Shreyas 33 (68b, 4x4), Prabhsimran Singh lbw Shikhar 11 (18b, 2x4), Uday Saharan (batting) 63 (110b, 4x4, 2x6), Jashanpreet Singh c Rahul b Mohsin 5 (34b), Anmolpreet Singh (batting) 6 (40b). Extras (LB-1) 1. **TOTAL (for 3 wkts, 45 overs) 119.**
Fall of wickets: 1-17 (Prabhsimran), 2-70 (Abhijeet), 3-87 (Jashanpreet).
Bowling: Shikhar Shetty 18-4-43-1, Vidyadhar Patil 3-0-11-0, Prasidh Krishna 4-2-10-0, Shreyas Gopal 9-2-25-1, Mohsin Khan 11-2-29-1.
Other Elite Group B brief scores: At Indore: MP: 187 & (O/n: 61/2) 258 all out in 76.1 overs (Shubham Sharma 90, Venkatesh Iyer 60; Jalaj Saxena 3-95, Ramakrishna Ghosh 5-72) bt Maharashtra: 179 all out & 133 all out in 36 overs (Niraj Joshi 42, Saurabh Nawale 40; Kumar Kartikeya 4-49, Aryan Pandey 4-17). Madhya Pradesh: 6 points; Maharashtra: 0.
At Chandigarh: Chandigarh: 136 & (O/n: 31/0) 261 all out in 64 overs (Shivam Bhambri 48, Arjun Azad 32, Vaibhav Narang 47, Raj Bawa 55; Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 4-53, Chirag Jani 4-78) vs Saurashtra: 453/3 decl in 106.1 overs (Harvik Desai 200 n.o., Jay Gohil 98, Arpit Vasavada 96). Saurashtra: 7 points; Chandigarh: 0.
At Porvorim: Goa: 355 all out & 18/0 in 4 overs vs Kerala: (O/n: 237/2): 526/9 decl in 135 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 153, Abhishek Nair 32, Sachin Baby 37, Salman Nizar 52, Vishnu Vinod 113, Ahammed Imran 31, Ankit Sharma 36; Arjun Tendulkar 2-109, Lalit Yadav 3-112, Amulya Pandrekar 3-89).

Devika posts straight-game win to enter maiden Super 300 final

BANGKOK, PTI: Young Indian shuttler Devika Sihag stormed into her maiden BWF Super 300 final with a straight-game win over world No. 35 Huang Yu-Hsun at the USD 250,000 Thailand Masters here on Saturday.

The 20-year-old unseeded Indian, who claimed her maiden BWF International Challenge title at the Malaysia International last year, registered a 22-20, 21-13 win over the fifth-seeded Huang in the women's singles semifinal.

Seemingly down and out at 15-20 in the opening game, Devika rose like a phoenix, saving five game points to seal the opener and continued the momentum in the second to prevail over Huang, who drowned in a cesspool of unforced errors.

The world No. 63 will face Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei in the summit clash.

Devika Sihag. X

Sindhu pulls out

PV Sindhu has pulled out of the upcoming Badminton Asia Team Championships, dealing a major blow to Indian team's medal chances at the tournament beginning next week.

Another draw dents Gukesh's hopes

WIJK AAN ZEE (THE NETHERLANDS), PTI: D Gukesh played out a draw with compatriot Aravindh Chithambaram, the result ending the reigning world champion's title hopes on a tough day for Indian players in the Tata Steel Masters 2026 here.

R Praggnanandhaa was also on the receiving end against a now-rejuvenated Vincent Keymer.

With just two rounds remaining in the first super tournament of the year, it has turned out to be an all-Uzbek duel as both Sindarov and Abdusattorov are locked on seven points each.

Results: Round 11: Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 6.5) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 7); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 4.5) lt to Vincent Keymer (Ger, 6); D Gukesh (Ind, 5.5) drew with Aravindh Chithambaram (Ind, 4); Vldimir Fedoseev (Slo, 5.5) drew with Matthias Bluebaum (Ger, 6); Anish Giri (NED, 5.5) beat Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus (Tur, 5.5); Arjun Erigaisi (Ind, 4) lt to Javokhir S (Uzb, 7); Thai Dai Van Nguyen (Cze, 3) lt to Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 6.5).

Chawla off to winning start

BENGALURU, DHNS: Promising Ketan Chawla of India began his campaign with a gritty 4-2 win over homeboy Mohanna Alobaidli in his opening Group B match at the Asian Snooker Championships in Doha on Saturday.

The 33-year-old cueist from Indore, coming off a third-place finish at the Nationals recently, jumped to a quick 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven-frame match with meaningful breaks. Chawla could have won in straight frames, but lost the fourth on the black.

The Qatari then came up with a fine break of 61 to reduce the margin. But before much damage could be done, Chawla upped his game a few notches to close out the match in the sixth frame. The Indian next takes on former champion Amir Sarkhosh of Iran.

Results: Group B: Ketan Chawla (Ind) bt Mohanna Alobaidli (Qat) 4-2 (61-29, 73-58, 56-35, 58-59, 37-89 (61), 64-24). **Group J:** Shahin Sabzi (Irn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-3 (74-38, 44-64, 79 (67) -45, 34-45, 37-61, 74-8, 75-18).

Ketan Chawla

Akaash takes pole position at the end of round three

BENGALURU, DHNS: Akaash Ashok Kumar **(in pic)** topped the overall standings after round three in the K Damodar & Co 10th Karnataka State Tenpin Bowling Championship for men at the Amoeba here on Saturday.

Akaash delivered a composed and consistent performance to score 1672 pins in eight games to top the overall standings, finishing with a cumulative pinfall of 6,408 in 32 games at an average of 200.25.

Overnight leader Vijay Punjabi slipped to second position with a total pinfall of 6358, trailing the leader by 50 pins.

Shanmugananda, the ambidextrous bowler who scored 1614 pins finished third with cumulative pinfall of 6138 pins at an average of 191.81.

Parvez Ahmed is in the fourth position with total pinfall of 5973 and an average of 186.66.

The top four bowlers, based on cumulative pinfall after 32 games, will advance to Stepladder round. Winners of stepladder round (knockout round) will be decided on the total pinfall of two games.

Leaderboard: Akaash Ashok Kumar – 6408 pins (200.25 avg), 1; Vijay Punjabi – 6358 pins (198.69 avg), 2; Shanmugananda – 6138 pins (191.81 avg), 3; Parvez Ahmed – 5973 pins (186.66 avg), 4.

Pavandeep ton hands K'taka innings honours

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka settled for a second consecutive draw with innings honours as their latest match against Tamil Nadu ended in a stalemate in the U-14 Boys South Zone tournament in Vizianagaram.

A 152-run knock by Pavandeep R Bharadakane took Karnataka to 340/7 in 90 overs after Tamil Nadu were bowled out for 234 in 68.5 overs.

Samrat Aditya P (4/50) did the bulk of damage to the TN batting.

Brief scores: Tamil Nadu: 234 all out in 68.5 overs (Sanjay B 61, VR Mithun 30, Niranjan Veer D 30, Haricharan 55; Samrat Aditya P 4-50, Krishna Kumar 2-48, Neeraj M 2-25) drew with Karnataka: 340/7 in 90 overs (Pavandeep R Bharadakane 152, Samarth Suresh 27, Akhieera Allan 28, Athreya Bhat 47 n.o., Aaryan Nagesh 30; KA Seshank Kumar 2-58, Nirajan Veer D 3-35).

Vrijesh stars for Palace Orchard

BENGALURU, DHNS

Riding Vrijesh NG's 86-ball 146 blitz, Palace Orchard Cricket Club posted a massive 289-run win over Seshadripuram PU College in the KSCA Group I, Division V League Cum Knockout cricket tournament for JB Mallaradhya Shield here.

Brief scores: Palace Orchard CC: 341 all out in 43.5 overs (Vrijesh NG 146, Venkata Sunil RK 80, Vignesh Nag A 50 n.o.; Akash AS 3-39, Hrishaan Bisht 3-86, Sachin S 2-40) bt Seshadripuram PU College: 52 all out in 17 overs (Ankit Jain 3-10, Madhusudhan 2-12, Rashmith Kumar Rai 3-6).
Caravan Cricketers: 286/9 in 50 overs (Navneeth V Raj 46, Dheeraj Upadhya 53, Mohan Narahari 42, Sushanth KR 26; Ramana MN 2-58, Surya Kirank 3-63, Ganesh Kailash 2-37) bt Youth CC: 124 all out in 28 overs (Ganesh Kailash 36, Pranav S 26; Hemanth MP 2-25, Piyush V Gandhi 2-28, Dheeraj Upadhya 4-35).
Oriental CC: 92 all out in 30.3 overs (Anoop Shukla 38; Yuva M 3-23, Nimith Kumar P 2-17, Vishwanth Yadav A 4-11) bt Shanthinagar Cricketers: 60 all out in 19.1 overs (Gurram Ravikanth 3-14, Vishnuraj TP 3-16, Manjunath Yallappa 3-10).
Young CA, Kolar: 106 all out in 27.1 overs (Pradeep 4-53, Prapul Pateel GR 4-36, Vishal V Rao 2-5) lt to Bangalore Sports CC: 111/2 in 13 overs (Santosh KS 56 n.o., Nandhan V 33 n.o.; S Pavan K 2-23).
IISC Gymkhana: 67 all out in 26.3 overs (Gowtham S 4-13, Gouspeer 3-11) lt to Super CC: 71/2 in 9.3 overs (Adwait Jain 25).
St. Joseph's College: 205/9 in 33.2 overs (Chandan K 58, Vishnu R 38, Aldo Clifton L 52; Mohammed Fawadur Rehman 3-55, Krishna Ganesh Ram 2-39, Pramath SV 2-40, Harshith Dev 2-12) bt UVCE College: 161 all out in 24.2 overs (Pratibh Kumar 72, Ryan Ahmed 4-40, Marshal Ronaldo 5-86).
Canara Union CC: 56 all out in 22.1 overs (Deepak NJ 5-13, Vivek NP 2-5, Suraj A 3-18) lt to YMCA CC (3): 59/1 in 8.1 overs (Priyanshu Tiwari 28 n.o.).
Yuvaka Sangha CC: 217 all out in 38.1 overs (Moksh Nahar 65, Mohammed Arhaan Khan 33; AT Deekshit 2-42, Prashanth Narayanaswamy 3-49, Mohith Gowda M 2-6) bt Eminent Cricketers: 195 all out in 34.4 overs (Darshan Eshwarappa 78, Prashanth Narayanaswamy 34 n.o.; Arif Baig 4-44, Ravi Patil 5-47).
Seshadripuram College: 178 all out in 48.2 overs (Sujith S Sreekumar 45, Manish L 28; Darshan Raja 3-28, Rohith R 2-29, Ayush S Acharya 2-25) bt Vasanthanagar Cricketers: 129 all out in 29.1 overs (Raj Singh Chauhan 35, Shamanth S Shetty 31, Rohith R 29; Manish L 4-10, Kushal Raja 2-31, Sujith S Sreekumar 2-26).
Vivekananda Union CC: 180 all out in 40.1 overs (KM Sachin Reddy 42, Rajdeep Dey 51; Likith Chengappa PJ 3-23, Gagan Karnati 2-25) lt to Friends CC, Kolar: 183/5 in 33.1 overs (Aditya Gundalli 46, Sachin SRS 49; Rohan Arora 2-40, KM Sachin Reddy 2-17).
Royal CC, Chintamani: 122 all out in 28.4 overs (Ranjan MS 30, Pareexith Okkunda 25, Deepak CB 25; Sunil Kumar DH 2-11, Madhusudan R 3-24, Prasanna Patil Kulkarni 3-49, Suprith S 2-38) lt to National Cricketers: 123/4 in 16.2 overs (Apurva Kale 47 n.o.; Siddana Gouda 3-48).
Bowlers CC: 174 all out in 47.2 overs (Bharath V Murthy 37; Aswin Sabapathi 3-23, Sachin KS 3-33) bt Jaihind CC: 149 all out in 44.3 overs (Gnanesh Subramani 50, SM Sarfaraz 2-26, Bharath V Murthy 2-6, Rohith Bharadwaj 4-28, Dhanush Vedakumar 2-21).

Pak spin out Aus to win series

LAHORE, AFP: Skipper Salman Agha hit his highest score in the shortest format before Pakistan's spinners routed Australia by 90 runs in the second Twenty20 international in Lahore on Saturday.

Agha hit a 40-ball 76 and Usman Khan smashed a 36-ball 53 as Pakistan made 198-5, their highest-ever T20I total against Australia.

This was enough for Pakistan's spin quintet who shared all ten wickets between them.

Brief scores: Pakistan: 198/5 in 20 overs (Salman Agha 76, Usman Khan 53, Shadab Khan 28 n.o) bt Australia: 108 all out in 15.4 overs (Cameron Green 35, Matthew Short 27; Abrar Ahmed 3-14, Shadab Khan 3-26, Usman Tariq 2-16). **Result:** Pakistan won by 90 runs. **Series:** Pakistan lead three-match series 2-0. **PoM:** Salman Agha.

THAT BLIND RHODES SCHOLAR

Rahul Bajaj
is a practising lawyer with expertise in disability rights and IP law, and is co-founder of Mission Accessibility. He wears more hats than he can himself sometimes count
@rahul400

Caste on campus: A case for substantive equality

In equality law, there are two major schools of thought – formal and substantive equality. Those subscribing to a formal view of equality believe that everyone must be treated alike and that equality means sameness. Those subscribing to a substantive view of equality, however, contend that our society was never equal to begin with. The law, they argue, must account for the patterns of disadvantage and discrimination that certain groups, such as women, black people, the scheduled castes, and persons with disabilities, have suffered for centuries and must be designed asymmetrically to undo that discrimination.

Viewed from the lens of substantive equality, the Supreme Court order dated January 29, 2026, staying the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026 [commonly called UGC caste regulations] is profoundly concerning. While framed as a cautious, prima facie intervention, the order reflects a troubling reversion to a formal, symmetry-based understanding of equality that risks obscuring the very structural injustices the Regulations sought to confront.

At the heart of the Court's reasoning lies discomfort with Clause 3(c), which defines "caste-based discrimination" in a manner focused on historically marginalised caste groups. The Court appears persuaded by the argument that such a definition is "restrictive and exclusionary" because it does not extend equal remedial protection to individuals from non-reserved or general categories. This ignores that caste is not a neutral social marker operating symmetrically across society. It is a deeply entrenched system of hierarchical ordering, sustained through material deprivation, social exclusion, and institutional bias. To insist that caste-based discrimination must be conceptualised as bidirectional to satisfy equality norms is to ignore the structural reality of caste as a system of dominance. Such an approach risks converting equality law into an instrument that neutralises, rather than dismantles, entrenched disadvantage.

The Court was concerned with the possibility of misuse of this clause. A lawyer for the petitioners argued that, in case a general category candidate, who is in his or her first year, is subjected to ragging by a second-year SC student and lodges a complaint against the latter, the latter may use Clause 3(c) to file a cross-case on caste-based discrimination. The invocation of potential misuse has historically functioned as a rhetorical device to resist equality-enhancing measures, particularly those that disrupt existing hierarchies. Even assuming that there will be some cases in which the regulations are misused, the response has to be through strong mechanisms to punish those lodging baseless complaints.

The Court also seems to have, with respect, altogether misunderstood the definition of "segregation" in the Regulations. The Regulations state that Higher Education Institutions shall ensure that any selection, segregation, or allocation for hostels, classrooms, mentorship groups, or any other academic purposes is transparent, fair, and non-discriminatory. The Court interprets this to mean that the Regulations call for maintenance of separate, caste-based hostels when that is the very thing the Regulations seek to prohibit. To my mind, this clause would cover situations in which, for instance, a scheduled caste or disabled candidate is not given hostel accommodation along with her able-bodied or general category peers. The Court's understanding of the clause, to mean that they call for separation amongst different groups, is not borne out by the text or purpose of the clause.

The Court also raises concerns about the omission of "ragging" as a specific category of discrimination in the 2026 Regulations, suggesting a regressive step vis-à-vis the 2012 framework. The definition of discrimination in Clause 3(e) of the Regulations is broad enough to cover ragging, regardless of the caste of the perpetrator or victim. Therefore, this concern is misplaced. Even if the Court felt that ragging needed to expressly be included as a form of prohibited treatment, it could have insisted that the same be added to the Regulations, rather than staying them altogether.

Perhaps the most troubling is the decision to keep the 2026 Regulations in abeyance in their entirety, while reviving the 2012 Regulations through the Court's extraordinary powers. Interim measures are not neutral. In equality contexts, delay itself can constitute harm. By freezing a reformist regulatory framework aimed at promoting equity, the Court effectively privileges a status quo that has demonstrably failed to prevent identity-based exclusion, student suicides, and institutional indifference. Substantive equality recognises that maintaining existing arrangements in the face of proven disadvantage is not a neutral act, but consciously freezes an unjust status quo. It is hoped that the Court will course-correct in future hearings and build in safeguards and guardrails wherever required, rather than throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

INSCRUTABLE CHINA

When purges create a power vacuum

Last week, China's most powerful military leader, Gen Zhang Youxia, was purged, along with the Joint Chief of Staff, Gen Liu Zhenli, on charges of "serious violations of party discipline and law". Sacking of top military officers in China is not new. However, the latest round leaves all military members out of the nodal Central Military Commission (CMC), barring Gen Zhang Shengmin, who is known for his political rather than combat work. Today, China has no full-fledged higher military command.

At the fourth plenum of the 20th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), held last year, 12 high-ranking officers were confirmed as expelled. Since the ascendancy of President Xi Jinping in 2012, over 160 General-level senior officers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) have been investigated. In all, ten CMC members, including four vice chairmen, were sacked.

The scale of purges in the PLA indicates that corruption – paying superior officers bribes to secure higher ranks, diverting budgetary allocations, procuring weapon systems, misusing funds, smuggling goods in military vehicles, and the like – has become rampant. This may have impacted military outcomes: the PLA has been unable to fight wars since the drubbing it took in the Vietnam War in 1979. Post-Galwan border skirmishes with India have proved to be costly, with estimated losses of around $150 billion.

Zhang Youxia, reportedly, had many differences with Xi, despite their "princeling" affinity since the 1960s. Reports said Zhang confronted Xi on the latter's plans for a 4th term as General Secretary of the CCP. The next party congress is due in October 2027; the 5th plenary session scheduled this year will see moves to designate the upcoming members. Xi has not announced a successor, thus increasing uncertainty in the CCP, which now has a depleting lineup of senior leaders – Li Keqiang, once seen as the most influential leader in the party after Xi, died in 2023.

Srikanth Kondapalli
The JNU Prof has been Peking behind the Bamboo Curtain for 30 years
@Sri_Kondapalli

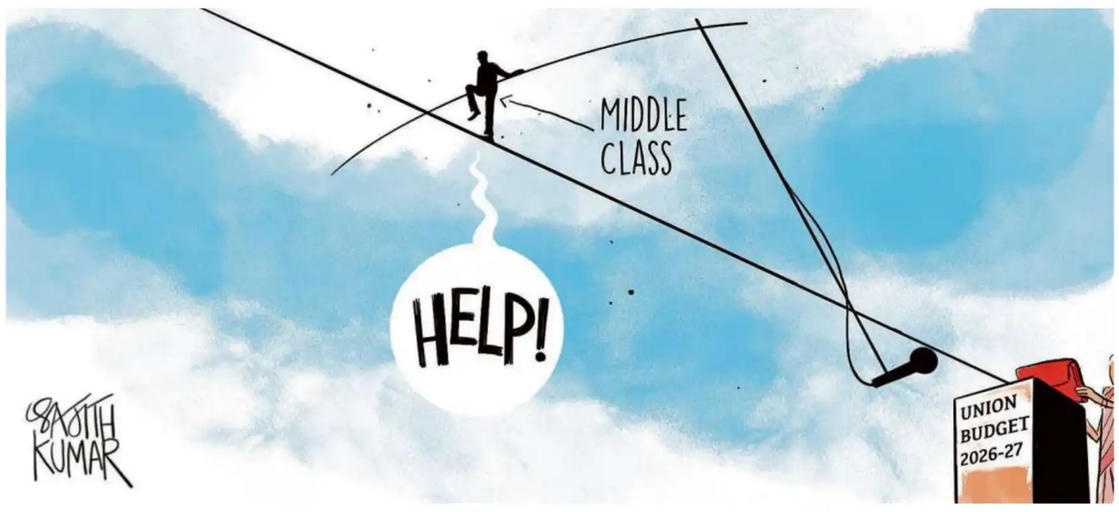
Xi and Zhang are also reported to have differed on Taiwan, the standoff with Japan over the Senkaku Islands, and the territorial dispute with India. The PLA's combat limitations were exposed in its inability to contain the Philippines at Scarborough Shoal and India at Galwan. While Xi has made the incorporation of Taiwan a part of the vision for a larger China, Taiwan's military is formidable, and any invasion by the PLA is estimated to cause heavy casualties, besides impacting the CCP and China at a time when the country is on the rise as a global force. It has been reported that Zhang tried to dissuade Xi from initiating military action.

The General is said to have had issues with Xi over undue favours extended to military officials such as He Weidong, Miao Hua, and Wei Fenghe (all have been purged). This has disrupted the military ranks, leading to a weakening of the higher command.

Xi's supporters have accused Zhang of not following an established convention in the CMC – that the rank and file have to be "absolutely loyal, absolutely pure, and absolutely reliable" to the Chairman and the CCP. Since 1982, this line has been institutionalised; it was amended recently to remove any leverage for the vice chairmen, thus consolidating Xi's authority. This opens up a charge of "insubordination" against Zhang.

This internal rift in China comes in the wake of the Donald Trump administration's deal with Xi at Busan last October on trade, tariffs, and rare earth metals. More significantly, the US National Security Strategy has toned down postures of "strategic competition", with President Trump going to the extent of referencing the 'G-2' with China, strengthening Xi's position.

The US's new focus on consolidating influence in the Western Hemisphere leaves China a free hand in the Taiwan Straits and the South and East China Seas. But the CMC has no combat-experienced member, and the PLA is in churn and precariously placed. The Taiwan situation can lead to two possible scenarios: an invasion may be ruled out, given the potential resistance and perceived losses, or a high-risk mission may be initiated, with local commanders complying with no questions asked. The purge of Zhang and the other PLA officers points to severe political and military rifts and a climate of mistrust. For India, a fragile peace prevails on its border with China after disengagement and patrolling agreements were reached in October 2024. Nevertheless, since no forward movement has been made on the de-induction of troops, India needs to watch the evolving China situation closely.



THE LIVING STREAM

Can Mysuru retain its soul?

"The expressway should never have been built," the cab driver declared categorically on my way back from Mysuru a few days ago. "Hundreds of cars pour into the city on Saturdays and Sundays. The traffic in the city is unbearable."

There was indeed a time when Bengalureans made fun of anyone complaining of a traffic jam in Mysuru. But I noticed the terrible traffic myself this time. I was in Mysuru earlier this week to participate in Uttarayana, an annual cultural festival launched this year by the Jagannatha Centre for Arts and Culture, an elegant new venue for performing arts, lectures, conversations, and art exhibitions.

"It is already Bengaluru!" a staunch Mysurean exclaimed during this trip. "It isn't that bad." I tried to reason. "No, it is!" He held firm.

The population of Mysuru city had expanded at a modest pace for many decades. Between 1961 and 2001, it grew by roughly 10,000 to 15,000 people annually, and by about 20,000 per year over the following two decades. The increase in the number of people had been slow and gradual. New neighbourhoods emerged alongside the older ones without shaking up the cultural ethos of the city.

At present, Mysuru has a population of 13.5 lakh – roughly a tenth of Bengaluru's. But if the housing layouts spiralling outward along the city's arterial roads are any indication – and if the viral real-estate reels urging Bengaluru's residents to buy plots in Mysuru are another – its population is set to rise dramatically from now on.

For decades, Mysuru saw large numbers of visitors only during the annual Dasara celebrations. Since the turn of the century, about 30,000 yoga enthusiasts, mostly from abroad, visit the city during the cooler months of the year to train in yoga. Dozens of hip cafes, bakeries, and gourmet restaurants have emerged to cater to this clientele and indeed the newness-hungry locals. The opening of the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway three years ago, however, has ushered in a dark shift, as new wealth, fast cars, and the weekend-escape itch engulf Mysuru in traffic week after week.

Beyond its unhurried pace and wide avenues shaded by old, stately trees, Mysuru has long charmed visitors with its palaces, museums, St. Philomena's Church, the Masjid-e-Azam, the Devaraja Market, legendary eateries, and its much-loved zoo. But precautionary measures to ensure the health of these heritage sites are nowhere in sight. Elementary conservation efforts would have included zoning laws to prohibit high-rise construction in the vicinity of Mysuru's more than 130 heritage sites, which not only threatens their structural stability but also disrupts the historic skyline and character of the city. Traffic noise and pollution pose serious threats to the health of these sites too.

Chandan Gowda
The Vidyashilp Professor looks for new ways of looking
@Chandan_Gowda73

Adding to the pressures on Mysuru's heritage and cultural ethos, the Greater Mysuru City Corporation (GMCC) proposal envisions a massive expansion of the city's boundaries. Introduced by the BJP state government in 2008 and revived last year by the present government, the proposal seeks to redraw Mysuru's limits by absorbing 110 surrounding villages, almost quadrupling the city's area from 86 to 333 square kilometres. A peripheral ring road to ease traffic, new housing layouts, new water supply and drainage networks, and a Metro line are all part of the plan.

Last December, members of the Chamundi village panchayat, the head priest of the Chamundeshwari temple, and local environmental activists met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to seek exemption from the GMCC for their area. They argued that both the forests of Chamundi Hill and the temple stood to be damaged otherwise. The Chief Minister, who had reiterated only weeks earlier that the Greater Mysuru plans would not harm the city's rich heritage, agreed to consider the appeal.

Two days ago, several groups gathered in protest against the construction projects underway on Chamundi Hill. Approved in 2022 under the ingeniously titled PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) scheme and co-financed by the Central and state governments, the recently commenced work is believed to threaten the Chamundi reserve forest and harm the foundation of the Chamundeshwari temple. Activists have put forward safer alternative uses for the Rs 60 crore sanctioned for the project.

Responsible urbanisation needn't be an impossible task: it demands a set of imaginative architects, urban planners, historians, ecologists, and energy specialists committed to ecological wisdom, local aesthetic traditions, and social equity to steer the process. The alternative is to watch the vested interests prevail and resign ourselves to living amid the ruins.

THE BIG LENS

Raising trade, with a strategic bonus

Geopolitical pressures can prove strikingly detrimental to the planned social and economic growth of nations. The United States' tariff war, which targets India and several other emerging economies, has pushed these countries towards alternatives in the short run, while devising roadmaps for the long term. Free trade agreements and comprehensive partnerships with individual countries and economic blocs are responses that are necessitated by the times. India has been negotiating a trade partnership with the European Union (EU) for nearly two decades.

US President Donald Trump, in his characteristic style, has undermined the EU on three counts. First, he initiated action in Venezuela while keeping the EU in the dark; second, he made repeated claims to take over Greenland and threatened the EU with dire consequences if it intervened; third, he proposed a US-Russia-Ukraine tripartite talk on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, sidelining the EU, which has, so far, been supporting Ukraine with money and material.

Never before has the European bloc been under such pressure to look beyond the US to safeguard its economy and its security and strategic interests. It has furthered these very interests by formalising the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India. The "Mother of All Deals" marks a historic pivot in global trade as it promises to create a trade corridor that accounts for roughly 25% of the global GDP and one-third of global trade.

At a time when geopolitical dynamics are defined by conflicts and flashpoints, fractured supply and value chains which have not been fully repaired since COVID, and countries increasingly adopting protectionist positions, the FTA is more than an economic agreement. For the EU, the agreement, when ratified and signed in the coming months, will be an insurance against the Trump administration's weaponisation of tariffs. It secures a durable foothold in the world's fastest-growing major economy and advances Brussels' drive to de-risk critical supply chains.

Seshadri Chari
reads between the lines on big national and international developments from his vantage point in the BJP and the RSS
@seshadrichari

For India, this lays a new democratic foundation as a counterweight to China's State-centric trade model. China's aggressive economic engagements in India's immediate, extended, and distant neighbourhoods have created a complex situation, greatly impacting the present government's 'neighbourhood first' policy. The FTA is a strategic move that positions India to efficiently deal with Trump's tariff war and reduce the over-reliance on both the US and China. The agreement was accompanied by a security and defence partnership, a rather unusual step for the EU, signalling a turn towards deeper maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and potential joint defence manufacturing.

However, the agreement is not going to be easy to put into practice, considering the EU's stringent and complex regulatory framework. Several Indian manufacturers will find compliance with the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) extremely difficult; this could adversely impact exports in steel, aluminium, cement, and chemicals. The EU has also been insistent on its partners adhering to the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Plus provisions, such as extended periods of data exclusivity. India has emerged as a key global player in generic medicines and has been providing affordable medicines to a large section of its economically backward population. It will need to wait before a comprehensive assessment of the agreement's fine print in the context of these provisions.

The regulatory asymmetry is even more stark when it comes to the EU's capital-intensive and technology-oriented manufacturing and exports, as against India's labour-intensive, tax-heavy private sector, and labour-oriented MSME sectors that are perennially starved of capital and innovation. The FTA seeks to allow greater market access for several products which are easily made in India or can be made with a little extra effort. At such a juncture, reducing tariffs can directly hit a large number of Indian startups and small and medium-scale industries that are already under severe strain due to the surge of cheap and unrestricted Chinese imports.

Also, a low or zero-tariff trade system may open up the market to a flurry of EU goods and services, impacting India's indigenisation push across sectors.

The Union government will have to urgently initiate measures to facilitate the private and MSME sectors to improve their standing and scope in cost-effective manufacturing, without compromising on the quality. This shift will be possible only with optimum utilisation of industrial automation. The trade deal is the beginning of a landmark partnership that goes beyond commercial stakes for the two camps and formalises important strategic collaborations. However, for the results to show, both the industry and the government need to align on multiple points.

POORVA PAKSHA

A paradise of albatrosses

Aakash Singh Rathore
as Dr Jekyll is a Professor of Philosophy, Politics and Law, author and editor of over 20 books and counting, and as Mr Hyde, one of India's top-ranking Ironman triathletes
@ASR_metta

'I pulled into Nazareth, was feelin' about half past dead/ I just need some place where I can lay my head/ "Hey, mister, can you tell me where a man might find a bed?"/ He just grinned and shook my hand, "No" was all he said.'

English delights in collective nouns that turn the ordinary into the poetic: a 'crash' of rhinoceroses, a 'parliament' of owls, a 'murder' of crows. For albatrosses – those vast, effortless gliders of southern oceans – tradition gives us a 'weight' (like The Band's surrealistic 1968 song). I have begun, in private whimsy, to call them a 'paradise' of albatrosses. At first, the phrase conjures pure bliss: a celestial flock soaring above endless turquoise, unbound by gravity. Yet on this first morning of February in 2026, with Republic Day just behind us, the phrase sharpens into something more contradictory. It names the quiet burden we carry in a Republic that proclaims equality and fraternity while still asking us to shoulder heavy, arbitrary weights.

Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner*, forced upon many of us in school, made the albatross the enduring symbol of this duality. The bird arrives as a blessing, guiding the ship through impenetrable ice, only to be shot on impulse and hung, dead, around the mariner's neck – a self-inflicted curse of guilt that outlasts the storm. In contemporary India, we carry similar albatrosses, often not imposed by others but chosen and renewed by ourselves. Privileged castes cling to advantages long after justice demands their surrender; voters and leaders remain loyal to dynastic politics long after democratic vitality has drained away; we mourn the betrayed constitutional ideals yet rarely confront the source of that betrayal. These are not private failings, but systemic burdens that we voluntarily refresh in the name of tradition or security, even as they pull the Republic deeper into stratified despair.

This reminds me of the insidious albatross paradox – sometimes wryly called "birds of a paradise". It is a philosophical thought experiment that exposes the absurdity of choice in a supposed utopia. Imagine a true paradise: scarcity eradicated, conflict eliminated, perfect equity achieved. No one lacks anything; no one suffers injustice; every need is met without struggle or competition. All meaningful problems have been solved. Only one trivial task remains: you must feed one of two albatrosses standing in front of you. The birds are identical in every way – appearance, health, temperament. Feeding the left or the right changes nothing for the world or for you. It's an ultimately inconsequential outcome.

But you must choose. The human mind, built for purpose and justification, cannot simply abstain or declare the options equal. You hesitate, invent distinctions, weigh phantom consequences, and finally decide – then you craft elaborate reasons to convince yourself that the choice mattered. A trivial act becomes a persistent demand to find meaning where none exists. This paradox distils Albert Camus' idea of the absurd: the painful collision between our hunger for meaning and a universe that offers none.

A just Republic is meant to be humanity's nearest approach to paradise – a system crafted to deliver equality, fairness, and shared prosperity. Instead, it confronts us with endless arbitrary forks. Which policies to prioritise when resources are finite, which groups to accommodate in moments of compromise, which vision of the nation to elevate – these decisions often resemble the choice between identical birds. The long-term effects may be indistinguishable, yet we clothe them in ideological certainty, declaring one path morally superior while vilifying those who chose the other.

Beneath the messaging of "unity in diversity", lie exactly these forks: reservations, economic reforms, language policies – choices that in the future will boil down to left hand or right, but justified with grand narratives only serving to deepen fractures along caste, class, region, and religion, the fraternal healing of which was the true goal of the Constitution and of our Republic.

'Take a load off Fanny/ Take a load for free/ Take a load off Fanny/ And you put the load right on me.'

Sedition laws linger, critical media voices are muted, environmental disasters displace the vulnerable, and policy repeatedly tilts towards the powerful. These burdens continue calcifying: inequality normalised as inevitable, arbitrary governance rebranded as pragmatism. Why do we keep carrying weights the Constitution explicitly promised that we could lay down?

We can challenge the absurd choices pressed upon us and demand a true reckoning with the burdens that mock our founding ideals. The albatross, after all, is built for flight despite its size; it reminds us that we, too, are capable of rising even while carrying weight.

'Take a load off Fanny, take a load for free'.

India's new longevity elite is racing to stretch time through science and capital, yet beneath the promise of extended years lies a more primal question: whether more life can truly be engineered, or whether the real challenge is learning to live well now, writes Tanisha Saxena

UNCHAINING THE CLOCK

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

A certain kind of health aspiration has taken hold in affluent circles: multi-omics panels, algorithmic diets, young-plasma infusions, and partial cellular reprogramming. The pursuit of longevity, once fringe, now sits at the centre of a rapidly expanding commercial ecosystem. But for those working at the intersection of biology, public health, and clinical research, the promises and the pitfalls are far more complex.

"If you look at human history honestly, inequality has always existed," says Anant Agarwal, health consultant and founder of Infinite Health. "There has always been a small group with access to cutting-edge tools, and a large majority trying to secure basics. As a clinical research scientist, I don't have the luxury of thinking about how the world should be; I have to work with how it is."

For him, longevity is not simply an ethical debate. It's also a science and systems question.

Losing touch with reality?

"Longevity is already stratified by class through diet quality, pollution, exposure, stress, healthcare access, and consumption," adds Asad Hussain, longevity expert, exercise scientist, and founder of OddsFitness. "New longevity tech could widen that gap fast, because early versions will be expensive." Even seemingly basic tools such as personal training or exercise remain inaccessible to most people. "It is concentrated in a few geographies, of course."

According to Dr Astik Joshi, Child Psychiatrist, Fortis Healthcare, Delhi, the modern obsession with longevity is a consequence of a thought process that believes technology can be used to overcome life's certainties. From a psychological perspective, this is a form of an overvalued belief system that may make the individual lose touch with reality in their preparation for mortality and lead them to use technology to preserve the data they gathered in their lifetime.

Ethics and limits

At the upper end of the market, Agarwal sees no inherent problem with wealthy individuals experimenting with advanced protocols like "multi-omics testing, expensive supplements, fancy devices" as long as the research is transparent and scientifically rigorous. "Whether we like it or not, a lot of innovation has always started at the top 1% and then slowly trickled down."

The failure, he argues, would be if the conversation remained only there. In India, "the real public health win is very unsexy: blood pressure checks, diabetes screening, clean air and water, vaccines, better nutrition, and basic lifestyle counselling."

Extending life, in other words, is meaningless without extending healthy years. "I'm less interested in lifespan as a headline number," he says, "and more interested in healthspan — the number of functional, independent years we can give to as many people as possible."

The incomplete Silicon Valley metaphor

Longevity rhetoric often leans on a Silicon Valley metaphor: the body as software, ready for upgrades and patches. Agarwal calls the metaphor "not inherently dangerous; just incomplete." Biological systems can be tuned, repaired, and supported, but not cleanly rebooted. "Biology is not software. You can't just 'reboot' a failing organ. Some changes are irreversible," he says. And treating the body like an endlessly upgradeable machine risks pushing people toward perfectionism and distraction from the fundamentals: sleep, movement, nutrition, blood pressure, and glucose control.

Still, he understands why the metaphor appeals. "People who've 'won' on money eventually realise that the one thing they can't buy back is time in a healthy body," he adds. The job of clinicians, he adds, is to turn that ambition into "grounded, evidence-based interventions, not fantasy."

What we actually know

If the commercial wellness space has inflated expectations, ageing biology researchers caution against equally inflated claims. Hussain argues that the science of longevity is real, but not nearly as definitive as its marketing.

"Ageing biology is real science now," he says. "But obviously it's not just one single switch or one answer." Instead, he points to the widely accepted framework of "multiple hallmarks": DNA damage, telomere shortening, epigenetic drift, loss of proteostasis, mitochondrial dysfunction, cellular senescence, stem cell exhaustion, chronic inflammation, and altered nutrient sensing.

Where the field excels is in demonstrating that some of these processes can be slowed in animals. The hype comes in when people jump from animal data to human reversal claims.

Partial cellular reprogramming, for instance, has produced striking results in mice and carries equally striking risks. Hussain emphasises, "It's extremely potent and carries real risks like loss of cellular identity, cancers, tumour formation, if not controlled properly."

And then there's the hype

On the more speculative fringes, such as young plasma clinics, organ printing, and mind uploading, regulators and researchers remain wary. "Regulators explicitly warn that there is not good enough evidence that it works for reversing ageing or preventing ageing," he says of plasma transfusion clinics.

Even the philosophical leap, the idea that mortality is merely a technical bug, fails to hold up under biological scrutiny. "Death isn't one," he clarifies. "It's a long list of failure modes. And solving one just shifts the bottleneck to another."

The realistic future, in Hussain's view, is "radical extension of health span and not tech-enabled immortality."

He points to a tension at the heart of the movement: "Is the longevity movement health or fear and control? It's both," he says. "Fear definitely sells. It's a marketing strategy... parts of the industry lean into immortality narratives." What people truly want, he notes, is not endless life but the avoidance of late-life decline. "It's mostly that they don't want to suffer and be immobile and have a disease. It's compressing morbidity."

For him, the test is simple: "Does the intervention reduce multi-morbidity risk with reproducible evidence in humans? And can it scale beyond a luxury market? If not, it's more lifestyle branding than medicine."

> Biology is not software. You can't just 'reboot' a failing organ. And treating the body like an endlessly upgradeable machine risks distraction from the fundamentals: sleep, movement, nutrition, blood pressure, and glucose control.

Precision wellness: Where's the evidence?

In India, where wellness marketing often outpaces science, both experts point to a widening gap between aspiration and evidence. "Precision wellness sounds very sophisticated, but honestly, a lot of what is sold under that label is just clever branding," tells Agarwal.

He frames genuine precision as rooted in restraint:

- Run only the tests that change decisions.
- Track outcomes, not dashboards.
- Use diagnostics as feedback, not as fear marketing.
- Be explicit where science is weak: This is experimental, here's what we know, here's what we don't.
- Personalisation, he adds, is often behavioural: two patients with identical biomarkers may require different plans depending on their stress levels, work environments, or cultural contexts.

Stick to the basics

Hussain's view is blunt: the most reliable human evidence today supports "the boring stuff." Exercise, nutrition, sleep, social connection — the fundamentals that make longevity commercially unglamorous but biologically powerful. "Your body is designed in a way that's way more advanced than even doctors can understand," he says. Before peptides and gene editing, most people would benefit more from muscle gain, glucose control, and strength training.

On emerging therapies such as senolytics, gene editing, and plasma treatments, he urges caution. "It shows promise, but jumping to a conclusion would be immature."

Meanwhile, a debate around data ownership shadows the entire sector. India's Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act and evolving health-data norms aim to place control with individuals, but Agarwal argues the deeper issue is trust. "Used well, aggregated health data helps us create better drugs, better diagnostics, and better protocols. Used badly, it can exploit trust."

Hussain argues that governments should apply strict standards before approving any anti-ageing intervention. "Treat a proven longevity tech like public health, but only once it's proven, not because a rat model showed promise," he says. "Strict evidence standards, outcome-based approval, not just biological age marketing, post-marketing surveillance, real enforcement against clinics making anti-ageing claims without data — that should be protocol."

He warns that without scaling public-good basics such as vaccines, blood pressure control, lipid control, smoking cessation, clean air, and walkable cities, elite therapies risk creating a world "where lifespan becomes a marker of class."

And Dr Joshi warns that the promise of radical life extension is likely to increase anxiety levels and associated psychological conditions in the short term. Over time, not meeting expectations is likely to increase feelings of learned helplessness that may predispose people to depressive symptoms.

'Biohacking is woke'

Hussain notes a growing wave of consumers seeking biohacking for identity as much as health. "We see it at odds as well, people coming for biohacking because it's a lifestyle statement. It's more woke," he says. He sees echoes of the old mythologies: "Humans have always been fascinated by immortality... Everybody wants to be remembered."

Even contemporary tech-driven efforts, like "Dipinder Goyal launching something exploring longevity," reflect a familiar impulse: longevity as status, he says.

But the most defensible version of longevity is deeply humane. It's about helping people stay strong, independent, cognitively sharp, and socially connected.

Hussain is equally cautious about the trend toward "digital afterlife." "We can preserve data, photos, voice, writing style, behaviour patterns," he says. "But we don't currently have a validated method to extract or transfer consciousness."

Even if transfer were possible, he argues, identity would still fracture: "Is it really that individual? Does it even make you the same person anymore?" Experience would reshape any copy. "Resemblance isn't the same as survival," he says. At best, digital replicas serve as "memorialisation... meaningful for families," but not continuity of self. "The metaphysics here shouldn't be misunderstood like an IT project."

For Hussain, the pursuit of extra years without purpose is hollow. "What is one even going to do with it?" he says. "Purpose, community — it does matter to such an extent that people who don't have that have fewer years to live." Loneliness, he notes, "reduces lifespan by 14 to 15 years... on par with smoking."

The real project of longevity, he argues, is social as much as biological: "Age-friendly communities, meaningful roles for older adults, reducing loneliness. The real win is health span plus social span — strong bodies, sharp minds, strong relationships."

MIXED BAG

'Mixed Bag' is your Sunday potpourri — an assortment of snappy articles, engaging ideas and snackable nibbles about this and that, from here and there. Dip in!

The sharpshooter from the South

In the genre of true-life shikar stories and jungle adventures, next to Jim Corbett, there's perhaps no better (or more knowledgeable) writer than Kenneth Anderson.

Of Scottish descent, Anderson had his schooling and college education in Bengaluru before being sent to Edinburgh to pursue law. However, he quit his law studies and returned to the city to work in the Posts & Telegraph Department, later joining the British Aircraft Factory (now Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) as a factory manager.

Anderson loved snakes. Once while pursuing a man-eater, he caught a cobra single-handedly, bagged it and carried it all the way home. Indeed, he had a veritable menagerie at his house in Whitefield, including a 12-foot python, a hyena, a sloth bear and a few

An 1890 lithograph of a tiger hunt.

panthers and jackals, all painstakingly raised from infancy.

Like Corbett, his illustrious predecessor, Anderson was a principled hunter acutely aware of the need to preserve wildlife. He largely confined himself to eliminating only confirmed man-eaters, rogue elephants and other beasts that menaced humans. Indeed, as India's wildlife vanished alarmingly, he strongly championed conservation long before the concept had caught on in the country.

According to official records, Anderson accounted for no less than 15 man-eaters between 1939 and 1966 — seven tigers and eight leopards, besides a few rogue elephants and killer bears. It is true, of course, that the man-eaters Anderson eliminated never killed as many humans as Corbett's monsters did, but they were vicious killers nonetheless and equally dangerous. Taking leave from his job time and again in response to SOSs, Anderson painstakingly and systematically pursued man-eaters, avenging the deaths of their victims and often risking his life in the process. Incidentally, some of the victims were children known to him personally, and this hardened his resolve to eliminate the killers somehow.

Many myths surround famed veteran hunters, one being that they are fearless when pursuing dangerous quarry. This has been explicitly and repeatedly debunked by both Corbett and Anderson: they asserted they were as human as anyone else with strong instincts of self-preservation and often knew fear in all its intensity.

Anderson was one of the last of the hunter-writers of India, with eight books to his credit, covering around 60 gripping stories of his shikar exploits — absorbing reading for those who relish good spine-tingling adventures that can be experienced vicariously.

Truly hair-raising incidents abound in Anderson's stories. Trying to ambush a man-eating tiger that had slain a woman in her hut, one night, he lay on the floor in the dark right next to the mortal remains of the victim. Around midnight, the woman's legs began to shake inexplicably. Horrified, Anderson rose to flee. Somehow restraining himself, he tried to reason out this phenomenon. It then struck him that the tiger could be outside, stealthily trying to pull the cadaver out through a gap in the mud wall. So, regaining his composure, he furtively groped around in the dark, and, sure enough, his hand brushed the killer's probing paw! On realising there was someone inside, the tiger bolted.

Popularly and deservedly known as South India's Jim Corbett, Anderson was to the South's man-eater-plagued regions what Corbett was to the North's — a saviour of the poor. He passed away on August 30, 1974, at the relatively young age of 64 after a bout of cancer. Today, his memory lives on in his spellbinding shikar stories and through the Hosur-based Kenneth Anderson Nature Society (KANS), which strives to promote wildlife conservation — a concept that he ardently espoused.

GEORGE NETTO

FEEDBACK
Like this story? Write to us at **dhonsunday@deccanherald.co.in**

ASTROSPEAK

Guruji Shrii Arnav

Scan the QR code to read the ***weekly horoscope***

This is a readable, erudite work that captures the vast historical sweep of a genre that is often patronised, underestimated or sentimentalised, writes Chintan Girish Modi

Shaping the Citizens of the future

What we read as children is our first understanding of what it is to inhabit a fictional world, says the author.

Sam Leith, a literary critic and podcaster based in England, sets himself a mammoth task in his intellectually stimulating volume titled The Haunted Wood: A History of Childhood Reading.

"I have set out to trace the history of children's stories from their prehistory in the deep past of the oral tradition to, roughly, the turn of the millennium," he states, capturing succinctly the vast historical sweep of a genre that is often patronised, underestimated or sentimentalised.

Leith demonstrates that writing history is an art form. Rather than merely documenting a set of events in chronological order, he narrates with wit and verve, lending emotional resonance. His analytical framework is interdisciplinary, informed by the work of scholars like Vladimir Propp, Joseph Campbell, Philippe Ariès, Lawrence Stone, and John Locke. Insights from folklore, comparative mythology, history, psychology and philosophy blend in with remarkable ease.

He writes with confidence and authority, animated by a passion that can be traced back to his own childhood. His father, an actor, read Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories aloud to him, relishing the cadences and modulating his voice for dramatic effect. The joy of that formative experience has clearly stayed with him and shaped his professional trajectory as a critic.

One of the book's most persuasive claims is its insistence on treating children's literature as foundational. He writes, "Children's literature isn't a defective or frivolous sidebar to the grown-up sort. It's the platform on which everything else is built." This is not mere ideological posturing but a conviction born of personal experience. Initiated into reading by his father, Leith has passed that inheritance on to his daughter. He adds, "It's through what we read as children that we imbibe our first understanding of what it is to inhabit a fictional world, how words and sentences carry a style and tone of voice, how a narrator can reveal or occlude the minds of others, and how we learn to anticipate with excitement or dread what's round the corner."

These words ought to be prescribed reading for literature festival organisers who give second-class treatment to authors of children's books by hosting them in shady hotels, scheduling their sessions at inconvenient venues, or not stocking their books in large quantities.

Leith also explores an intriguing paradox by venturing into the biographical worlds of authors who create safety and comfort for children despite traumatic childhoods of their own. Helen Lyndon Goff, better known as P L Travers of Mary Poppins fame, grew up with an alcoholic father. AS Leith recounts, "She coped with loneliness by pretending to be a chicken. She sat for hours, her arms clasped tightly around her body." Her success in conjuring up a magical world, perhaps forged in adversity, speaks volumes about her resilience and her creative abilities.

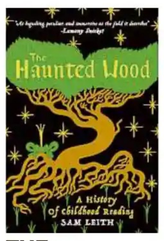
Similarly, C S Lewis, who wrote The Chronicles of Narnia series, was sent off to boarding school after his mother died when he was only nine years old. In that restrictive environment, his imagination not only sustained him but also honed his skills as a fantasy writer. Such details from the personal lives of authors show how empowering the creative process can be for writers, who then provide catharsis and ignite hope in their readers.

What is most striking about this book is the curious stance that it adopts towards the construct of children's literature itself, instead of taking it for granted. The author points out, for instance, that it was only in the early 20th century that "children's publishing really became a distinct sector of the industry". Before that, little distinction was made between adult and child readers. The change took place partly because of industrialisation, migration and new family structures.

"For most of British history," Leith notes, "middle-class children were both the protagonists and the audience for children's stories," and their experience of childhood was often mediated by nannies, governesses, nurses or ayahs. While the book has a predominantly British focus, it invites productive comparisons with India. Even today, children's books in English published in India cater mostly to affluent families, with protagonists and plots reflecting their concerns.

Leith traces how the readership for children's literature in England has gradually expanded across racial and class lines, leading to demands for more and better representation. Malorie Blackman's books, for example, attempt to counter the erasure of Black people in British children's literature. She started out by wanting to write books that she would have loved to read as a child. A comparable development in India would be the Different Tales project undertaken by the Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies to tell stories of Dalit, Muslim and Adivasi characters who have been conspicuous by their near absence from Indian children's literature.

The Haunted Wood is highly recommended. It is a reminder that children's literature deserves to be taken seriously because it shapes not only early reading habits but also the citizens of the future.



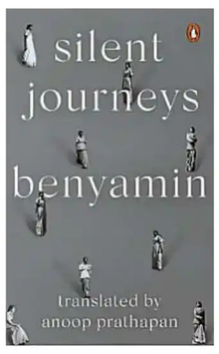
THE HAUNTED WOOD
Sam Leith
OneWorld, pp 592, Rs 699

A tale that urges you to look pain in the eye

Benyamin spotlights the extraordinary courage that seemingly ordinary women display by deftly intertwining personal and collective history, writes Swati Nair

Some of the most remarkable stories in history cannot be found in a book. They live in half-remembered anecdotes recounted at family gatherings. In fading sepia photographs on the time-worn walls of ancestral homes. In letters hidden at the back of musty drawers or in suitcases carrying the remnants of long-forgotten travels.

Benyamin's Silent Journeys is one such story. Translated from the Malayalam *Nishabda Sancharangal*, this latest work from the author of Goat Days traces the astonishing life of Mariamma Yohannan, a nurse whose travels spanned continents.



SILENT JOURNEYS
Benyamin and Anoop Prathapan (translator)
Penguin, pp 296, Rs 599

It all starts with Manu, a restless young man uncertain about his own future. His parents press him to migrate, while his sister pushes him to get into nursing. Yet, he remains unmoored with none of the options "speaking" to him. His life takes an unexpected turn when an extended hospital stay introduces him to Maria John, a young nurse whose compassion prods him to reflect on the invisible labour of those in her profession. This meeting coincides with the discovery of a letter from his great-grandmother, Mariamma, found in their crumbling ancestral home. It is this letter that propels him out of his own indecision and inertia into a search across the globe.

Information about Mariamma is scarce, but Manu doggedly pursues every clue, every letter, every diary entry he can lay his hands on. And slowly, Mariamma's life begins to take shape through the mists of time. In a radical move, she chose nursing at a time when women in her community were expected to confine themselves to domestic spaces. What's more, her choice carried her across the seas, from Kerala to Singapore and Borneo during World War II and the Japanese occupation. She then mysteriously ended up in Tanzania, after which she became untraceable. But Manu is determined to follow Mariamma's footsteps and uncover her story.

Benyamin spotlights the extraordinary courage that seemingly ordinary women displayed as Mariamma's decisions spur generations of women in her family to follow her path into nursing and travel across the world. He deftly intertwines personal and collective history by highlighting the lives of nurses, their daily endurance and sacrifices, which are central to the story of modern Kerala and its diasporas.

Stylistically, the book is a delightful mix of Manu's present-day reflections with Mariamma's letters, recollections of family members, and fragments from journal entries. At times, the prose carries the intimacy of a diary and at others, the straightforwardness of facts. Benyamin has excelled at portraying migration, as evidenced by the exceptional Goat Days. He shines at nudging out the psychological costs of leaving home, and tracing the small humiliations and triumphs that define exile.

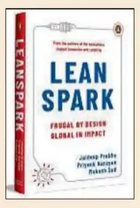
Benyamin's masterful blend of historical storytelling with a mystery at the heart of it propels the story forward. The translation, though, and perhaps the editing too, leaves much to be desired with clunky phrasing, repetitive sentence constructions, occasional typographical errors and the usage of Indian English. In a novel where words and turns of phrases have the power to amplify Mariamma's raw defiance or the mercurial nature of Manu's contemplations, these language missteps dull the force of the story.

Despite these flaws, the novel's emotional core remains intact. Silent Journeys is replete with reflections on the dignity of labour, the unacknowledged sacrifices of women, and the generational weight of silence. It reminds us that healing is not confined to hospitals. That healing also includes the act of unearthing what families bury, and confronting the pain of the past. For Manu, Mariamma's story is both a revelation and a mirror as he is forced to acknowledge his own passivity.

Mariamma's journey rises above being just a family chronicle as it reminds us of the women who carried their families across oceans, leaving an indelible impact on future generations. It's a story that lingers, that asks us to pause and listen to those who shape our silent journeys.

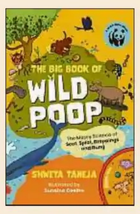
BOOKRACK

LEANSPARK
Jaideep Prabhu, Mukesh Sud & Priyank Narayan



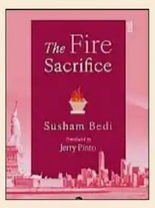
Penguin, pp 264, Rs 499
This book aims to show how India's 'high-tech jugaad' is turning scarcity into an innovation superpower across drones and EVs, fintech and AI, sports, space and public policy.

THE BIG BOOK OF WILD POOP
Shweta Taneja and Sunaina Coelho (Illustrator)



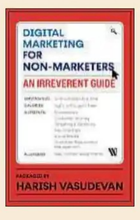
Juggernaut, pp 80, Rs 400
Wild poop stinks. It's squishy and filled with icky things like hair, bones and skulls. But in the animal kingdom, scat is way more than undigested remains. Are you ready to dive (noses pinched shut) into dung?

THE FIRE SACRIFICE
Susham Bedi and Jerry Pinto (translator)



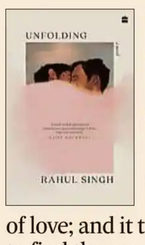
SpeakingTiger, pp 232, Rs NA
A major Hindi novel of migration and women's lives, it returns in a powerful new translation by Jerry Pinto, offering a sharply intimate portrait of the Indian diaspora in America.

DIGITAL MARKETING FOR NON-MARKETERS
Harish Vasudevan
Westland, pp 228, Rs 350



The author, an accomplished marketing strategist, brings his years of experience to the table, offering practical steps, easy-to-follow explanations and smart advice.

UNFOLDING
Rahul Singh
HarperCollins, pp 280, Rs 599



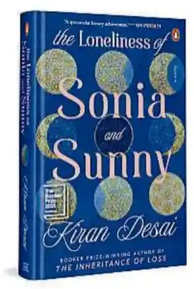
This book confronts the wayward ways of the heart; it articulates the true price of love; and it tells us what it means to find the road back home.

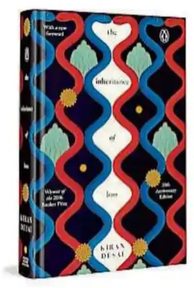
INTERVIEW

'AI is a parasitic entity that feeds off our work'

In an exclusive interview with Ashwin B M, author Kiran Desai spoke about dealing with the supersonic pace of the modern world and the shifting landscape of global politics

At the ninth edition of the Kerala Literature Festival (KLF) held against the sun-drenched backdrop of the Kozhikode beach, Booker Prize winner Kiran Desai sat down for a candid conversation with *DHoS*. Known for her long hiatuses between works, Desai spoke about the supersonic pace of the modern world, the shifting landscape of global politics, and why she views Artificial Intelligence as a parasitic entity feeding on the labour of writers. *Excerpts*





You are known for taking a long time between your books. Is this a personal tempo, or is it a conscious resistance to the supersonic world we live in?
Perhaps it is both. I think I withdrew. Once you withdraw and fall out of a certain "ton of time," the years simply go by without you noticing them. It is a very happy space to be in, actually.

Your work often tackles globalisation. How has your view of it changed in today's 'Trump world'?
It is disconcerting. Many of us started writing about a world of shifting borders and migrations. Now, both in India and the United States, we see this nationalist rhetoric bursting out. I am all in favour of idiosyncratic culture, multiple perspectives, and translation, not a "single story." Naturally, a writer fights back because our work is situated in a vibrant, syncretic society.

Does writing from the diaspora change your perception of home?
I worried when I first left India that I would lose my subject, that I wouldn't find that depth of historical and family knowledge a novelist needs. But the diaspora is a place of ideas, transformation, and influx. Arguments happening in India get transported to the US, and vice versa. It's an emotional centre, even if it has no fixed geographical location.

You often use various dialects and accents in your English. Is that a form of rebellion?
Perhaps. It's about catching the English spoken by different kinds of people, the intonation, the word choice, the snobbery. In my current work, I've been focusing on very westernised, privileged Indians. It was quite fun to satirise them.

Should writers feel a responsibility to respond to the political movements of their time?
You can't separate history, politics, and the novel. However, a novelist is focused on how politics influences the smallest, most private moments of a person's life. It is about art for the sake of the human experience, not art for the sake of politics or propaganda.

If you were starting today, how would you negotiate the world of GPTs and AI?
I actually asked GPT to write a story in the style of Kiran Desai. It came up with something called The Dance of the Seven Veils set under a mango tree. We had a laugh, but it was spooky. It feeds off our work, and our collective labour has been fed into these machines. It isn't "working", it is parasitic.

How do you protect creative uncertainty in an age that demands instant clarity and answers?
People want answers from novels, but I love to emphasise that we don't have them. What we offer is companionship and empathy.

What draws you to quiet, internal struggles rather than overt drama?
That is the heart of fiction: the private shape of a life, the pieties, and the anxieties felt when one is alone. That is where the real story lives.

Kiran Desai. (PIC BY AUTHOR)

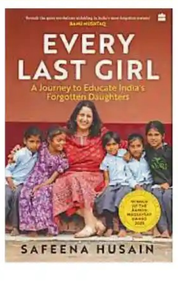
READ OF THE WEEK

India is one of the largest contributors to the global number of out-of-school girls. Poverty, early marriage and rigid social norms keep millions away from classrooms. At the heart of these issues is the symbolic 'last girl', Antimbala, representing those farthest from opportunity and first to be denied it. What would it take to change her fate and that of countless others?

In 2007, Safeena Husain, whose own education was once interrupted, set out to find the answer. An initiative that began in a few pockets in Rajasthan has grown into Educate Girls, a grassroots movement that now spans more than 30,000 villages and has helped over two million girls return to learning.

Through a network of local volunteers, it built leadership within communities, found new ways to identify out-of-school girls and track their progress, and proved that lasting change can start at the margins. Drawing on years of first-hand experience and vivid stories from her work in India's villages, Safeena Husain's Every Last Girl traces this remarkable journey.

Safeena Husain has worked extensively with rural and urban underserved communities in South America, Africa and Asia. In 2025, Educate Girls became the first Indian organisation to win the Ramon Magsaysay Award.



Many women are refusing to stay in marriages because the relationship has plateaued; other women are refusing to marry at all. All of them are choosing to remain single not out of defeat, but discernment, observes Shunali Khullar Shroff

Women in midlife: WALKING OUT ALONE

The idea of 'happily ever after' is no longer tied to remaining married. Love isn't guaranteed, and life-long love even less so.

Plenty of women are refusing to stay in marriages where the relationship has met its demise or plateaued. And then there are women who're refusing to marry at all, because the idea of 'settling' is anathema to them.

Either way, the story is the same: the expectations have changed, but the world around them hasn't. Women are leaving marriages because they want more — and discovering the world hasn't developed enough partners to match that desire. Not because society disapproves.

The eyebrow-raising that accompanied the news of divorce in urban India has lost some of its voltage today. But the inventory of emotionally mature, financially stable men who can offer them companionship with the side order of a little love, if not romance, is limited.

Women have made their peace with walking alone; the world doesn't quite get it yet.

'Shrunken', 'curdled' dating pool

Nayantara, the newly single-at-40 protagonist of my novel, finds that "not only has the dating pool of eligible men her age shrunken, but it has curdled as well."

Nayantara may be a fictitious character, but fiction, as we know, comes from real life — and we all know women who've walked out of marriages in their 30s and early 40s not necessarily because there was adultery or abuse (of course those reasons persist), but because of a demise. The relationship's demise. These women are mostly financially independent, successful, able-bodied and confident, but they're realising that — to borrow from Coco Chanel — "they have become the men they wanted to marry."

You take financial dependence out of an equation and the number of women leaving marriages is likely to grow.

Initially, there is optimism. I've seen enough women come out of marriages in their 30s — wiser, more self-assured, no longer naïve and yet absolutely certain that love is on the cards.

The longing to have another person witness our highs and lows, someone to adore us for our quirks and forgive us for our inadequacies even as they share a roof with us — that longing is only human.

But after a few disappointing dates, short-lived relationships and situationships that end before the valet brings the car around, these women begin to see a pattern.

The problem isn't the women. It's the options. Too many men in this age bracket are carrying oversized baggage with their past spilling out of it, leaving a trail behind them.

Now, don't take it the wrong way — I am only an observer, a witness to the disappointments and an admirer of the clarity of mind and self-posession of these women.

Better off being single?

"Better to be single than be with someone who drains the life out of you," or "Better to be single than listen to his sob stories about his ex-wife," is the common sentiment I hear from my single girlfriends. And this is the cultural shift not enough people are talking about: that women would rather remain single than compromise downwards just to regain a plus-one.

They'd rather live well, spend well, sleep well, breathe freely — than enter a lopsided arrangement with emotionally dented men who either become insufferable bores or smooth-talking salesmen so convinced of their greatness that they wouldn't let you forget it for a second.

For the first time in our country, women — even as they make sense of not being wholeheartedly embraced by the kingdom of couples — are choosing the single life in their 40s because they would rather learn to love their own company than tolerate that of a man less deserving of them.

Women are choosing to remain single not out of defeat, but discernment.

But not finding a companion without baggage or a bad personality is only part of the problem of being single. Not finding a place on the social seating chart or someone to invite you to join them on a holiday is a kind of unhappiness that married people cannot even begin to fathom.

Scripture teaches us that we come alone into this world and leave it pretty much the same way. Loving your own company, learning to be alone (which we're told is different from being lonely), cultivating enough abiding interests to occupy our free hours — these are all exercises that teach us to be self-sufficient and happy.

But that desire to be included — it's human. Our social structure is built only for pairs. Society only understands even numbers. Married people, while making a list for a dinner party, often leave out their single friends navigating midlife on their own. Couples plan their vacations with other couples, and parents of young children with other parents of young children.

If the shoe doesn't fit, they don't want to wear it. And they've made their peace with walking alone; it's the world that doesn't quite understand it yet.

(The author has just released her new novel, The Wrong Way Home, with Bloomsbury India.)

Transitioning: What does it involve

Gender transition is the term used to describe the process or the timeframe in which an individual's gender is reassigned. This may or may not happen with surgical or medical treatments. Not everyone who goes through gender reassignment opts to undergo these treatments to alter their physical attributes. Gender transition is not an overnight process, and may take time, sometimes, many years.

Transition can also be a social one, wherein an individual comes out as a certain identity and uses a different pronoun and changes their gender expression publicly. This process is not a physical one, so there is no medical treatment involved.

When it comes to medical transition, the treatments include hormone replacement therapies (HRT), gender-affirming/affirmation surgery (GAS) or voice therapy. Voice surgery is also an option, wherein a surgical procedure lets one's voice pitch to be turned into a masculine or feminine one.

Transitioning is not necessarily a male to female or vice-versa identity shift. It could also be transitioning to a gender-neutral/non-binary identity.

The transition process is a deeply private one, but also requires a lot of medical and psychological support and counselling. The same applies to social transition as well. Transitioning needs empathy and self-compassion, apart from support and understanding from one's family, friends and community.

Curated by Savitha Karthik

*(**Decoded** is a column that demystifies gender concepts and breaks them down into easy-to-understand language.)*

Travel

It's a city where the East meets the West. It's where majestic mosques and palaces jostle for space with buzzing bazaars and stylish boutiques. Roxanne Bamboat chalks out an itinerary that will help you make the most of the city

ISTANBUL: Delightfully Turkish

Istanbul has always been an exotic mix of East meets West. Straddling two continents, this historic and cultural capital has been the seat of empires and the crossroads of civilisations. Once known as Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine and later the Ottoman Empire, modern-day Istanbul blends majestic mosques and palaces with stylish cafés, boutique stores and markets. Ranked among the world's top five most visited cities, Istanbul can feel overwhelming, but even with just 48 hours, you can experience its best sights, flavours and charm.

Day 1: Old Istanbul's icons

Start your morning in Sultanahmet, the city's historical heart and begin with the Hagia Sophia. It's a magnificent structure that has served as a church, mosque and museum over the centuries. Across the courtyard stands the Sultan Ahmet Mosque, popularly known as the Blue Mosque. It's famous for its six minarets and dazzling blue tiles which give it its nickname. Both are free to visit but dress modestly; scarves and robes are available at the entrance in case you forget yours.

Next, head to the Topkapi Palace, the former residence of Ottoman sultans. Its sprawling courtyards, intricate tiles and panoramic views of the Bosphorus make it a must-visit. Opt for a guided tour to help bring its history to life.

Grand Bazaar bargains

After a morning steeped in Turkish history, head to the Grand Bazaar, one of the world's oldest covered markets. With over 4,000 shops selling jewellery, carpets, ceramics, spices and more, it's a sensory adventure. If you're looking for (affordable) luxury brands this is the place to visit. Think Prada, Gucci, Louis Vuitton first copy bags and shoes at throw away prices. Of course, bargaining is accepted but don't expect dirt cheap retail, these luxury copies take skill and look like the real thing. Expect some healthy pushback on the bargaining.

Food and music

Istanbul is a fantastic city for food enthusiasts with a cuisine to rival any other. Stop for lunch nearby and try some local Turkish eats like lahmacun, a crisp Turkish flatbread topped with spiced minced meat, or the very popular doner kebab which is a meal in itself. In the evening, head to Istiklal Street, a lively pedestrian avenue lined with shops, cafés and street musicians. You can hop on the nostalgic red tram that trundles from one end to Taksim Square, and soak in the energy. Wrap up your day with dinner at one of the many rooftop restaurants Istanbul is well known for. Pick a spot that overlooks the city lights or the Bosphorus Bridge and enjoy some more Turkish fare before ending the day.

Day 2: Across the Bosphorus

Your second day in the Turkish capital should begin with a cruise along the Bosphorus, one of the best ways to take in Istanbul's skyline. The ferry glides past Ottoman mansions, ornate mosques and grand hotels. Keep your camera ready for landmarks like the Maiden's Tower, Dolmabahçe Palace, and Ortaköy Mosque along the banks. Once you dock, visit Dolmabahce Palace, the 19th-century residence that became the administrative centre of the Ottoman Empire. Its gilded ceilings, crystal chandeliers and marble halls are breathtaking. Photography isn't allowed inside but when you come out onto the terrace gardens, you can capture plenty of shots with the Bosphorus as a backdrop.

48-HOUR GUIDE

One of the most under rated experiences is to just walk around discovering different neighbourhoods in Istanbul. After the river cruises and palace explorations, take some time to explore Karakoy, one of Istanbul's trendiest neighbourhoods. Walk along the waterfront where locals fish by the banks, browse through quirky shops, and pop into chic cafés. Visit the highly recommended Karakoy Gulluoglu, a beloved institution famous for its baklava which locals claim is the best in the city. Treat yourself to a few pieces and a scoop of pistachio Turkish ice cream.

Beyoglu district

From Karakoy, head over to the Beyoglu district and visit the Galata Tower. This medieval stone tower offers sweeping views of the city and even if you don't want to go up to the tower stroll around the area and visit the trendy shops and cafes. Visit the Viyana Kahvesi Cafe, often seen on Instagram for their viral, decadent San Sebastian (basque burnt) cheesecake, often photographed with the tower in the background. The cheesecake is pretty good and comes drowning in chocolate sauce so if you've got a sweet tooth, indulge here. Souks and old markets in Istanbul are a fun visit and a trip to the Egyptian Market, commonly called the Spice Market, is an experience. Each seller is trying to woo you into their shops full of spices, and sweet treats like Turkish delight, Turkish flavored tea (you can find all sorts from green apple to cherry) coffee. Nuts, dry fruit and even some Turkish cheese! Wind down with a leisurely Turkish meal at a restaurant called Hamdi – a popular joint in Istanbul but this outlet, a walking distance from the Spice Market, is the one to visit. Get in early (reservations are a must) and swing a table by the window for the most stunning views of the city especially at sunset. The excellent spread of traditional Turkish meats and vegetables make it the perfect way to end your whirlwind visit to Istanbul.

The baklava, a traditional sweet.

Inside the Blue Mosque.

Turkish delight is a much sought-after dessert. (PHOTOS BY AUTHOR)

Istanbul is among the world's most visited cities.

Slow rise of SOURDOUGH PIZZA

Restaurants and cafés are seeing an uptick in demand for sourdough pizza over the recent past, driven by experimental diners seeking authentic and fresh flavours, writes Deepa Natarajan Lobo

Chicken supreme pizza at Marseli Cafe & Patisserie.

Bacon and honey speziato pizza at Serious Slice.

There is a quiet comfort in knowing that what you are eating is slow-cooked and fermented, even if it's a pizza. Yes, you read that right! It's not idli or dosa but pizza that is now joining the growing list of foods that use fermentation to enhance flavour, nutrition and digestibility.

The process starts with the infusion of a natural starter of wild yeast into the pizza dough instead of the regular yeast. This is followed by long fermentation and patient crafting. The result? A crunchy sourdough base with a subtle tang, which when topped with fresh sauces and seasonal produce, is indeed a more light, flavourful and wholesome version of the stretchy, cheesy fast-food pizza that first sparked everyone's love for the dish.

Globally, sourdough pizza has long been a marker of quality. In London, Franco Manca popularised it from 2008 onwards, while in the US, artisanal pizzerias embraced sourdough through the 2010s, highlighting its craft and flavour. Across India too, restaurants are seeing a rising demand for sourdough pizza over the past few years, driven by young, experimental diners eager for authentic tastes.

Pioneering the dough

Among the earliest champions in the segment in Bengaluru was Brik Oven. "We created our initial starter almost 10 years ago at our first outlet on Church Street in 2016. The idea was to make all our pizzas in-house with 100 per cent sourdough instead of yeast, using the age-old Egyptian method of bread-making, which is good for the gut and easier to digest," says Sreeram Anvesh, one of the founders.

Using authentic fresh ingredients, house-made dough, and house-made cheese, Brik Oven's Neapolitan-style pizzas have been a hit with food-lovers. "The crust is charred, as we like to call it. And the health factor is a plus, which keeps people coming back for more," adds Sreeram. Popular toppings include San Marzano tomato sauce, fresh fior di latte mozzarella, basil, Parmesan, and soft cheeses like feta and goat cheese added after baking.

Sourdough pizza at Brik Oven.

Inspired by Italy

For Anirudh Kheny, Partner at Serious Slice, it was a trip to Italy that made him view pizza through a different lens. "What struck us about the Neapolitan pizzas there wasn't just the flavour, it was how light and effortless they felt. People were finishing entire pizzas and walking away feeling content, not heavy. That changed the way we looked at pizza as a food experience," he reflects.

Their pizza dough undergoes a 76-hour slow-fermentation process, giving it a light, airy texture and deep flavour. "Urban diners today are curious and discerning; they want to know what goes into their food and value craftsmanship over convenience. Bringing a pizza that is indulgent yet balanced was a natural choice," notes Anirudh.

That the diners are well-travelled and curious is something that Suresh Kumar, Chef and Founder of Marseli Café & Patisserie, also believes in. That's why the pizzas at his patisserie are crafted with premium-grade 00 Semola flour from Italy with the dough fermenting naturally for over 36 hours. "This slow, traditional process gives our base its light, airy texture, delicate tang, and that irresistible aroma that only true fermentation can bring," he informs.

Another popular chain of pizzerias that crafts its mother dough from a 500-year-old recipe is Si Nonna's – The Original Sourdough Pizza. "This dough is kept alive and active on a daily basis. Once mixed, the dough rests and begins a slow fermentation that lasts for 24 hours. This slow process develops flavours, improves digestibility, and creates the light texture and open crumb that defines an authentic Italian Neapolitan crust. It also produces a base and cornicione that is light and airy, and structured with an open crumb, yet has a gentle chew," reveals Massimo Verzini, Executive Chef, Si Nonna's. "After the first rise, the dough is portioned and proofed again before it is hand stretched by our skilled pizzaiolos and baked at 400°c in our Vesuvian-tiled oven."

The café experience

The 'living crust' is also reshaping the café experience with sourdough pizzas being paired mindfully with freshly roasted coffees. Coffee Mechanics, a café in Bengaluru, uses clean flour, local artisan cheese, good olive oil, and seasonal produce to make sourdough pizzas. "We focus on culinary techniques that lift the ingredient, not mask it. When the base is alive with flavour, the pizzas don't need to be hid behind toppings," points out Ganga Prabhakar, co-founder.

Tarun Sibal, Co-founder and Chef at Street Storyss, notes how slow-cooked, thoughtfully prepared food brings joy and connection. "Sourdough pizzas connect people to something real, they carry a sense of nostalgia and craftsmanship. Fermenting dough naturally over many hours builds flavour, lightness and texture in a way that instant yeast never can," he says.

Spice-forward fermentation

Smaller, independent kitchens too are now hopping on the sourdough train, bringing their own twists and flavours to the slow-fermented crust. Supratim Bhattacharya, a fermentation biologist and founder of SCOBY Labs, a fermentation kitchen lab, is experimenting with sourdough for Indian palates through his venture – The Karam Kulture. "Pizza is loved universally, and our goal is to make it healthy, interesting, and inclusive. Keeping the Indian love for spice in mind, we infuse the dough with hot fermented Sriracha chilli oil, and use bold toppings like Mangalorean ghee roast mushrooms, paneer, chicken, and pesto herb roasts, while cheese remains a staple," informs Supratim.

"Our labneh cheese and lacto-fermented sauces add depth of flavour and gentleness to the pizza," he adds. Flour-free bases and alternative cheeses for those with gluten sensitivities or who avoid fermentation entirely are also kept in mind.

ORIGIN STORY

Art of food preservation

Fermentation is hardly a modern process; it dates back to thousands of years. Studies show that Mesolithics of Sweden fermented fish near the Baltic Sea 9,000 years ago. Early humans are likely to have stumbled on the process, in their attempts to preserve food. Studies show that fermented drinks were made in prehistoric China. According to a study published in PNAS, a peer reviewed journal of the National Academy of Sciences, US, a beverage fermented from fruit, honey and rice was produced in China around the 7th millennium BCE. Studies also show that beer was brewed by ancient Egyptians around 5,000 BCE. In Mesopotamia, Sumerian tablets show recipes of a barley-based beverage akin to beer, around 4000 BCE.

Sauerkraut, a fermented food that's made from finely chopped cabbage and salt, is also said to have originated in China more than 2,000 years ago. The food, which means 'sour cabbage', is now an invariable part of German cuisine. In Korean cuisine, there's kimchi which refers to salted vegetables.

In India too, idli, a steamed black gram (urad dal) and rice dish, is said to have originated as early as the ninth to tenth century, finding mention in Sanskrit and Kannada texts. Yoghurt, kanji, pickles, dhoklas and dosas are just some of the innumerable examples of fermented foods in India.

Curated by Savitha Karthik (Origin Story *attempts to satiate your curiosity about the history of a certain ingredient or cuisine.)*

Korean kimchi.

Trap of toxic positivity

Advice like 'keep smiling' or 'look at the bright side', often said in good faith, tend to overlook real emotions.

Often, even well-meaning words aimed at sparking motivation or offering hope can invalidate authentic emotions such as sadness. The constant pressure to "be positive" or "stay strong" can often serve to minimise rather than support, writes Tejashwini Madyal

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

"The grass is greener on the other side; you just need to look!" This is what we are often told when we share emotional distress or setbacks. In moments that call for listening, people usually offer well-meaning words of motivation instead. Anecdotes that spark motivation or optimism, phrases that seem reassuring, tend to overlook the discomfort of sitting with the actual problem. Even in conversations meant to help, optimism is often offered more readily than understanding. While seeking therapy is one of the most effective ways to navigate a mental health crisis, compassion, acceptance, and empathy matter just as much in the immediate moment. Being heard without being hurried towards positivity can itself be grounding.

Invalidating authentic emotions

It is the tendency to push the negative emotions away that psychologists describe as toxic positivity. "Toxic positivity invalidates authentic human emotions," says Dr Anitha Bharathan, consultant clinical psychologist. "It originates from the constant pressure to be cheerful, strong, grateful and unaffected. This minimises the emotional truth rather than supporting it," she adds. Unlike healthy optimism, which allows hope and distress to coexist, toxic positivity demands a constant state of forced emotional strength. Dr Bharathan notes that it often develops because people feel uncomfortable sitting with the emotional pain, whether it is their own or someone else's. From childhood, messages such as "be strong", "don't cry", or "others have it worse" groom individuals to suppress discomfort rather than confront it. A lack of emotional literacy further prevents people from validating feelings, making "stay positive" the default response instead of empathy, she says.

When sadness is labelled as a 'negative emotion', conflict is dismissed as toxicity, or constant self-sacrifice is praised as virtue, emotional reality narrows. Boundaries blur, and discomfort is treated as failure rather than part of being human. Psychologists caution that this has consequences beyond language. Forced optimism can deepen emotional injury by placing the burden of recovery on someone who is already struggling. When affirmations are chanted without comprehension, they fail to comfort and instead show the gap between feeling and expectation. This gap is often due to the generational social conditioning that teaches people to suppress distress rather than acknowledge it, explains Dr Bharathan. At that moment, phrases such as "happiness is a choice", "positive thoughts attract positive energy", stop being encouraging and start to feel like a quiet dismissal. "Acknowledgement is the most important indicator of healthy optimism," says Dr Shikha Soni, clinical psychologist, "Healthy optimism gives a person a choice. It does not dictate what they 'must' do," she says.

Learning how positive psychology is applied is often framed as a search for "self-fulfilment". Decades of research on positive psychology also challenges the belief that happiness must be constant, including economist Richard Easterlin's work on income-happiness, which suggests that money improves well-being only until basic needs are met. Youth, too, is not a guarantee of happiness, with older adults often reporting greater psychological stability than those much younger. Even experiences that are culturally coded as joyful, such as parenthood, carry stresses that can complicate emotional well-being. When therapy and clinical help are available, it is best to use them during times of mental distress, notes Dr Soni.

Need for balance

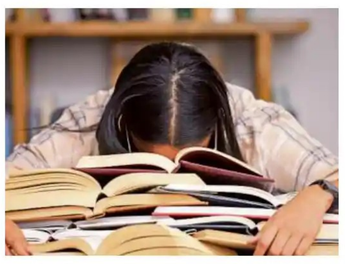
Positive thinking, in this sense, does not concur with constant happiness. Instead, it attests well-being as emerging from connection, the ability to savour moments of pleasure, and the cultivation of gratitude. "I wish people would stop believing that staying positive is the only sign of strength. Like yin yang, balance is necessary," believes Dr Soni. What is often lost in popular narrative is this distinction. When these ideas are flattened into slogans, affirmations, or motivating phrases, they risk becoming instruments of pressure rather than support. Happiness, then, becomes curated in controlled environments, not flourishing naturally and thus is fleeting.

POSITIVITY BEYOND SLOGANS

- Slogans, affirmations or motivating phrases tend to flatten ideas of happiness or positivity.
- Healthy optimism allows hope and distress to coexist while toxic positivity demands a constant state of forced emotional strength.
- Forced optimism can deepen emotional injury; it places the burden of recovery on someone already struggling.

High scores, at what cost?

RASHIKKHA RA IYER



The unrelenting pressure to excel academically has led to stress and addictive behaviours.

India's education system is renowned globally for its excellence, but the approach to learning has become a cause for concern. The relentless pursuit of high scores and academic achievement has turned education into a pressure cooker situation, leaving students burnt out and stressed.

As I reflected on my own educational journey, I was reminded of a poignant conversation with an esteemed educator earlier this month. He shared his thoughts on the affective experience of education, highlighting the need for a paradigm shift in our approach to learning. His words resonated deeply with me, as I've long believed that pressured studying and the relentless pursuit of excellence can have devastating consequences. The unrelenting pressure to excel academically has led to a disturbing trend, with addiction emerging as a tragic consequence. One of the causal factors that maintains addiction is a lack of identity or a misconstrued sense of self. A big part of addiction recovery involves rebuilding one's identity and self-esteem. When one's identity is interwoven around external validation such as high scores or specific lines of education, it can get in the way of abstinence.

Alarming statistics

Over 12,500 students succumbed to suicide in 2022, primarily due to academic stress and failure. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports a 7 per cent rise in student suicides over the past decade. A recent study by the Indian Journal of Psychiatry found that 30 per cent of students in India experience academic stress, with over 20 per cent reporting symptoms of depression. With parents and society often placing an inordinate emphasis on academic achievement, students may feel unable to speak about their pressures to the family. When the stress threshold is breached, it can lead to addiction, to substances or adrenaline driven activities such as dangerous driving. Academic pressure is not only taking a toll on mental health but also fuelling a surge in addictive behaviours. Students are increasingly turning to prescription medications, nicotine, and illicit substances as a coping mechanism for stress and anxiety. Also, social media addiction, gaming addiction, and internet addiction are also experiencing a worrying upswing.

We need to promote mental health awareness and encourage open conversations about stress, anxiety, and addiction. By fostering a culture of empathy and understanding, we can help students feel less isolated and more supported. We also need to provide counselling services, peer support groups, and extra-curricular activities, to help students manage stress and develop coping mechanisms.

Psycho-education workshops helping students understand the correlation between academic pressure and addiction also help. It's time to redefine what success means in education. It's not just about scoring high grades or securing top ranks; it's about fostering resilience, building coping mechanisms, and developing a sense of purpose that isn't tied to achievement alone. *(The author is a multidisciplinary professional and practising psychotherapist who works in the UK.)*

Praneet Soi's 'Astatic Garden'.

Harshit Agrawal's 'Ritual Robots'.

'Mapping Discomfort' by Mahima Varma.

Kala Hubba was not lacking in ambition and energy, but a more nuanced engagement with the city's everyday realities would have added greater immediacy, writes Giridhar Khasnis

Questions of freedom

This winter, Bengaluru bustled with a lively calendar of festivals — literary, artistic, and cultural. The season opened with several literature events, including the Samajamukhi Sahitya Sammelana on November 8–9, 2025, at the Bharat Scouts and Guides Headquarters, followed by the Bangalore Literature Festival (December 6–7 /Freedom Park). The city then witnessed the 23rd edition of Chitra Santhe on January 4, 2026, organised by the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath. It was followed by BLR Hubba, an expansive arts and culture festival from January 16 to 25. The 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes 2026) will continue until February 6.

DIFFERENT STROKES

Touted as the city's 'festival of festivals,' BLR Hubba brought together an array of events that included dance, music, theatre, visual art, and food under one umbrella. Each sub-festival, guided by a separate curator, resulted in an extensive programme that sought to reflect the city's cultural tapestry. Kala Hubba, the visual arts component, unfolded primarily in public spaces, most notably Freedom Park, a former jail now reimagined as a site for civic and artistic engagement. The choice of location foregrounded the relationship between art, architecture, and public memory.

Archana Hande's 'Sweet Dreams @ Barrack-E'.

Shantamani's 'Silent Warrior'.
ALL PICS BY AUTHOR

Phytoplankton world.

Curated by Kamini Sawhney, Kala Hubba centred on the notion of freedom and its increasingly fragile nature in contemporary life and times. The chosen artists employed sculpture, textiles, new media, film, and printmaking to explore the concept of 'freedom' from multiple perspectives: freedom from marginalisation and gender discrimination, freedom of speech, and freedom of the body and of the mind.

Among the arresting installations at Freedom Park was Shantamani Muddiah's Silent Warrior. The charcoal and resin sculptures paid homage to the silent, essential, but often-invisible contributors who sustain communities that shape our daily lives. Installed at the end of a narrow corridor, the dark yet striking pieces invited viewers to pause, reflect and engage with their sombre presence.

Addressing the concepts of comfort, vulnerability, and urban waste, Archana Hande's Sweet Dreams @ Barrack E displayed 100 security blankets and bedsheets stitched from rejected fabric sourced from Bengaluru and other metros. In a nearby barrack, Mahima Verma's Mapping Discomfort employed natural materials — black-painted stones symbolising fractured memories of incarceration, alongside living plants that implied renewal and cyclical time. Praneet Soi's Astatic Garden, originally created for the Kochi Biennale (2016–17), featured coir sculptures produced in collaboration with a Kerala-based factory, and showed suspended moments of human motion.

Among the video works, Swagata Bhattacharyya's Roadscene (2023) stood out for its restraint and clarity. Set against the backdrop of the year-long farmers' protest at the Delhi border, the silent film evoked a tense landscape while quietly foregrounding endurance and collective resistance. In contrast, Phytoplankton World: The Unseen Heroes of Marine Life offered an immersive, educational experience to both young and mature audiences, blending playfulness with ecological awareness. Several other video installations were distributed across small cubicles within the site.

Animated patterns

At the Bangalore International Centre, Kala Hubba presented a cluster of works that included Janhavi Khemka's Letter to My Mother, in which animated patterns inspired by lip-reading explored intimacy and communication. Ravi Kumar Kashi's Holding Pattern was a tactile exploration of daphne and cotton fibres conveying nuances of our emotions, while Shradha Kochhar's Vanishing Relics of Safeguarding featured suspended and hand-spun kala cotton forms that alluded to labour, care, and disappearance. In Harshit Agrawal's Ritual Robots, a robotic arm replaced the priest who performs the traditional havan or homa.

While appreciating the ambition and energy behind Kala Hubba, the visitor found the artworks to be few and far between in the broader context of BLR Hubba. While several works were visually compelling, not all appeared to engage directly with the stated curatorial premise. A stronger presence of Bengaluru-based artists might have lent greater immediacy to the exhibition, allowing for more nuanced engagements with the city's social, political and everyday realities. Attendance, too, seemed limited: on a weekday afternoon, only a handful of visitors were seen at both Freedom Park and the Bangalore International Centre — raising questions about visibility, outreach, and the challenges of sustaining public engagement with contemporary art/life in the city.

DISCOVER INDIAN ART

Indian yellow: Colour with a contested past

The pigment was likely introduced to the Indian subcontinent through Persia in the 15th century and found early expression in miniature paintings

A pigment with an obscure history, Indian Yellow was prized for its striking orange-yellow tone and warm, glowing luminescence. In 1883, its enigmatic origins drew the attention of Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, the British botanist and director of Kew Gardens. Intrigued by the pigment's peculiar acrid odour and uncertain provenance, Hooker wrote to the Indian Department of Revenue and Agriculture seeking answers. Many months later, a letter arrived at the Royal Society of Arts in London from T N Mukherjee, a civil servant, responding to Hooker's enquiry and shedding light on the pigment's curious origins.

In his account, Mukherjee described encounters with cattle herders in the village of Mirzapur, in the Bengal province — today's Munger in Bihar — who were responsible for producing the material. According to Mukherjee, the herders fed their cows exclusively on mango leaves (*Mangifera indica* Linn) and water. The resulting urine, concentrated and brilliant yellow, was collected, boiled, and strained, yielding lumps of yellow-green sediment. This sediment was then rolled, dried, and shipped to Calcutta, from where it made its way to London's docks. Mukherjee also noted that the cows appeared sickly under this regimen.

Known locally as piuri or purree, the pigment was likely introduced to the Indian subcontinent through Persia in the 15th century and found early expression in miniature paintings commissioned by the royal courts of Rajasthan and the Punjab. Beyond its aesthetic appeal, the pigment's remarkable resistance to sunlight fading made it ideal for dyeing cloth and painting frescoes and walls.

Indian Yellow's arrival in Europe was facilitated by the far-reaching maritime networks of the British Empire. The pigment's strong ammonia-like odour sparked speculation: some believed it derived from snake urine or ox bile, while a more popular theory suggested camel urine. Art stockists treated and separated the yellow substance from the raw material before selling it for use in watercolour and oil painting. The pigment found its way to the palettes of several European artists at the time. Jan Vermeer used it to achieve his distinctive light effects; JMW Turner integrated it into his watercolours; and Vincent van Gogh famously employed it in painting The Starry Night.

Vasanti Ragini, Page from a Ragamala Series, Himachal Pradesh.
PIC COURTESY: THE MET

Beyond Mukherjee's account, published in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, no trace of "mango cows" or Indian Yellow's legal or cultural history exists before the 1900s. By the early years of the 20th century, the production of Indian Yellow had ceased. Historians suggest this may have been due to a ban on its production on humane grounds, but no official record of such legislation exists.

Modern scientific analyses have confirmed the pigment's organic origins, revealing the presence of hippuric acid, a compound found in urine. Yet the exact methods and sites of production remain unverified. In the early 2000s, writer and journalist Victoria Finlay retraced Mukherjee's steps, only to find no evidence of the pigment's manufacture. Art historians continue to wonder whether the origin story of the colour may just be apocryphal.

Varun Nayar, MAP Academy

Discover Indian Art *is a monthly column that delves into fascinating stories on art from across the subcontinent, curated by the editors of the MAP Academy. Find them on Instagram as @map_academy*

Raja Mandhata, Nurpur, Himachal Pradesh (1690).
PIC COURTESY: SMITHSONIAN'S

MOTLEY GARDEN

To find a memory worth nurturing...

Instead of making resolutions, mark a milestone, or a goal reached with something real — buy a plant, says Subhashini Chandramani

When the year begins, we make promises we can't keep. We'll exercise daily. Eat healthy. Read more books. And somewhere in that ambitious list, someone adds a line, "I'll start a garden this year." By March, the treadmill becomes a cloth stand, the salad turns to samosa, and those hopeful seedlings turn into crispy brown sticks.

I know this pattern well because I've experienced it firsthand. It starts as enthusiasm and ends as neglect. And I've learnt that resolutions are contracts we make with our future self, who may or may not show up. So I began finding other ways to return to the garden.

A few years ago, I started buying plants to mark important occasions in my life. Before I developed this habit, I would buy plants because they appealed to me, without considering whether I had the right conditions for them.

Damascus roses in full bloom.

A walk into the nursery, and anything that caught my eye would go into the cart. I would bring them home and tuck them into one optimistic corner of my garden.

I'd water them diligently for the first week and then forget about them. I would notice that corner again only when the leaves turned yellow or when a plant died. I would blame myself for being too busy, for not caring beyond the initial excitement. Guilt would take over for a few hours, followed by the familiar vow of no more impulsive buying. But that resolve would last only until the next visit to the nursery. This cycle repeated itself for years. There was a particular day when I went to the local nursery to buy pots and soil. I was still relishing the relief of finishing a three-month art project. I noticed a Hoya, and something about it caught my attention. It blooms from the same node year after year.

White frangipani flowers.

A stubborn return to the exact point where it once began. It felt like my project effort, revisiting the same place until something finally opened. I bought it and named it Milestone. And just like that, I liked the idea of associating plants with events in my life. The list grew after that. A Damascus rose for my mother's 75th birthday. A frangipani for childhood. A citron for my first book.

Slowly, every new plant in the garden had a memory associated with it. I read about plants before buying them. And more importantly, I promised myself that I would care for them after the novelty wore off.

I asked practical questions before bringing anything home. Would it live in sun, shade, or bright half-light? Would it need water daily, twice a week, or only when the soil was truly dry? I made sure they fit into the garden. The sentiment quietly turned into responsibility, and I was visiting my plants often. It's not that I care for these plants more; it is just that I simply notice them. Attention is the real new beginning.

My father never made gardening resolutions. He did not need a new year to begin with. He walked into the garden every morning because that's where the vegetables and flowers were. He noticed what was drooping, what was thriving, what had quietly changed, and responded to it. He didn't track a watering schedule in an app. There was no guilt and no grand promises to keep; only the small care the day required. So, instead of resolutions, mark an occasion. Something real. A birthday coming up. A goal you finally achieved. Even a rough week you got through. Buy a plant for it. Put it where you'll see it daily. It can be near the coffee maker, by the window, or on your desk between the clutter. When you look at it, you'll remember why it's there.

And when you remember, you'll notice the new leaf uncurling, the first bud, and the soil drying faster on warmer days. You'll notice the tiny pushes of new growth and the way the plant slowly fills the space. And if the plant dies? Well, that's gardening too. You'll learn something new. You'll try again. Not because you resolved to, but because somewhere between the watering and wilting, you learned how to care. Until next time, happy gardening.

Motley Garden *is your monthly kaleidoscopic view into a sustainable garden ecosystem. The author believes gardens are shared spaces where plants and creatures thrive together. She can be reached at allthingsinmygarden@gmail.com or on social media at @allthingsinmygarden.*

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com

Classifieds

More value, more impact

Think Plots.®
Think KNS.

KNS® INFRA

ಕೆ. ಎನ್. ಎಸ್.

RERA No.: PRM/KA/RERA/1250/307/PR/060325/007551

RERA Registered

BENGALURU'S BIGGEST
PLOTTED TOWNSHIP

150+ ACRES
ONE ACRE CLUBHOUSE ZONE

ARTISTIC IMPRESSION

BMRDA APPROVED

Plots from 1200 to 3000 sq. ft.

15 min from Madavara Metro Stn.

LAUNCHING
KNS®
Samooha

Nelamangala
Off Bengaluru - Tumkur Exp Highway

PLOTS FROM
₹69 lakhs*

Financed by Piramal Finance

Our Banking Partners

Launching on
Jan 31st & Feb 1st

*T&C Apply

CREDAI BANGALORE

Scan for Invite

See it to believe it
Call for a site visit

079 4105 7091
www.knsgroup.in

KNS Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.
#1125/12, 1st Floor, Service Road, Hampinagar,
2nd Stage, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 104

Classifieds

More value, more impact

PROPERTY CORNER Classifieds

FOR SALE

BDA SITE No. 90, BTM 1st Stage, North facing 40×60, 60 ft. Road, Adjacent to JALA BHAVAN, Between Bannerghatta Road to Jayanagar East End Road, Approx 100 mtr. to Bannerghatta Main Road.

Genuine Buyers Call:

Muralidhar: 98453 01599

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Sites

Anjanapura

"ANJANAPURA 8TH Block 30x40 South facing, only Genuine Buyers Call: 'Sri.Ganesh Real Estate' 9845286505"

SALE BDA 30X40 Anjanapura 5th G Block South facing 40X60 west facing commercial site 2nd Block. 9620041313, 9945373839

Banashankari

"BANASHANKARI 6TH_STAGE 4th_Block`50x80 North`West corner and`50x80 North`facing 7th-Block and`30x40 West`facing 2nd-Block and`40x60 3rd-Block East`facing near`BDA Complex. Call: 9845146725/ 9741466369"

BDA SITE FOR SALE, Banashankari 1st Stage, 2nd Block, 6th Cross, 8th Main, 60'x41', prime residential area, near reputed school. CLEAR TITLE DEED, Ideal for bungalow/redevelopment. Direct owner. Ph: 9848482065

BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE- BDA-AVAILABLE/ WANTED 20x30, 30x40 40x60, 50x80 SITES. BRINDAVAN ASSOCIATES- 9980863245/ 9945333993

SALE BSK 6th stage 4th B Block 40X60 west Facing 2.10Cr Also 40X60 South Facing 6th Block 2.20cr Behind 100 Road all owners site. 9945373839, 9620041313

BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage 7th Block BDA 30x40 East Facing Site For Sale 1.6Cr. Owner- 9900115519

BTM Layout

BTM 2ND Stage, 40x60 North facing site 25,000/-, 30x40 South facing 26,000/-, good location: 9845307497

Bannerghatta Road

BANNERGHATTA ROAD, Bilekahalli, Ramanasri Enclave Near Vega City Mall, 60x50 East, Residential A-Katha, 4,44,00,000/- 9980761200

VCNR VISTA 5 MINS FROM MADAVARA METRO STATION

Starting from ₹69 Lakhs

Book a site vist: 9535 040 504 | 30x40 | 30x50

AVAILABLE FOR RENT

2,800 sq.ft. (Ground Floor). Suitable for Show Room / Bank Branch on R.V.Road (Manandi Samvrudhi), Opp.to R.V.Public School, Lalbagh West Gate, Bangalore.

Contact Owner: 98450 48332

AKSHAYANAGARA 3562 SQFT 11000/-, PANDURANGA NAGARA 40x60 21000/-, VIJAYABANK LAYOUT 50x100 COMERCIAL 30000/- FINAL 9449655947

Jakkur

FOR SALE -JAKKUR4000 square feet(50×80) residential plot,Telecom Layout. A-Khata(clear title) 13,500/sqft(5.4 Cr).Direct owner. Whatsapp: 9591918278 9844019327

Jayanagar

SALE BDA-SITE 19x24 NORTH WEST CORNER JAYANAGAR 6TH BLOCK NEAR METRO STATION Rs.1.15CR Call:7892531744 9448369117

"JAYANAGAR 7TH_BLOCK 42x50 South facing, Banashankari 2nd Stage 30x50. 'Sri.Ganesh Real Estate' 9845286505"

J P Nagar

"J.P.NAGAR, SRINIDHI_LAYOUT 30x51 Residential Site, East Facing, BBMP A_Katha, Full White. Direct Owner: 9845249799/ 9845088449"

Basavanagudi

SALE SITES 100x130 Gandhi Bazaar commercial property North 114x52 west V.V.Puram residential site/ land. 9845720810.

New Building with 65 Rooms For Rent

near MANYATA TECH PARK

Suitable for

Student Hostel | Company Guest House | Lodging | PG | Attached Bath and Ample Car Parking

Contact

98450 08811

Kengeri

BDA 50X80 East Facing Commercial Property on Kengeri Railway Station Road Prime Location Genuine Buyers Contact: 9148514646

Koramangala

LAND SALE 30x40 West Facing E Katha Suitable: Resi/ Commercial Near Sony Koramangala Sony Signal, Clear Title: 9381009151

Kempegowda Layout

NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT BDA SITES SELLING/ BUYING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. Genuine Buyers Call: 9632146784, 9731162167.

KEMPEGWODA LAYOUT 3rd Block "J"Sector Kommaghatta #2740 30x40 Site Sale.Ready to Construction ₹9750/-. 9742681666

KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Commercial/ Residential BDA Site for Sale 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. Contact Kumar 9945119449

Mallathalli

MALATHAHALLI SITE for sale MPM Layout 40x60 A khatha North face 40 feet Road Contact 9886349709 Broker excuse

Malleshwaram

MALLESHWARAM, MARGOSA Road, 2400sqft, South Facing, Excellent Location, Semi-Commercial Plot for Sale. Price 40k Persqft Contact: 9845575731

Shobha Residency

OMKAR NAGAR, Opposite JSS College, 40 Feet Wide Road, Near to Global Village, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore.

BDA Approved Luxury 3 BHK Flats for Sale in Prime Location.

Each Flat Built up Area 2100 Sqft. North Facing

Call: 98440 26676 | 83104 43385

AVAILABLE FOR RENT

on St.Marks Road (Manandi Plaza), Bangalore. Office Space 3,000 sq.ft. Warm Shell in 3rd Floor with Lift.

Contact Owner: 98450 48332

Multiple Locations

BDA SITES AVAILABLE 50x80, 40x60, 30x40, 30x20 in Vishweshwaraiah Layout and Kempegowda Layout. 9900999919.

Mysore Road

PRICE 2450SFT only. Mysore Road Near Christ College 60x90 E-Khatha Site Immediate Settlement. Call:7619444766

Rajajinagar

RAJAJINAGAR 2ND Stage 40X60 Property for Sale East facing, Excellent location, Price 22000/- Call: 9663983846

Mysore

KIADB INDUSTRIAL HOUSING AUCTION SITE FOR SALE, 17539 SQFT, E/Face, RING ROAD, OPPOSITE SHESHADRIPURAM COLLEGE, HEBBAL, MYSORE. CALL: 9845981490

Nagarabhavi

"NAGARABHAVI DEEPA_COMPLEX MPM Layout 40x60 East North Corner BDA Site Sale 80% White. 9448432633"

Nelamangala

BYRASHETTYHALLI AISHWARYA County BMRDA 40x60, East And Banashankari BDA 30x40,Sites For Sale : 9620117773/9845857006

Commercial Space for RENT
(Opposite St.Philomena's Church, Mysore-1)
About 11,000sqft- ground+ 2 floors, Parking available in basement.
Suitable for Software Co./ Bank/Super Market / Shopping Complex/ Showrooms/ Shops.
Please Contact:
Mob: 9880063284 | 8884819699

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR SALE

Large quantity of used construction materials in good conditions. Such as Shuttering Plate, Jacks, Spans, Cuplock scafolding & Machinery such as 1Bag, 2, 3&4 Bag Mixers, and Tractor Mounted 16 KVA D.G, Material hoist Electrical & Diesal 30 & 40 mts height, Cutting & Bar Bending Machines (Electrical) for sale.

Contact: 6360605636 / 8431164733

5390 SQFT, S/W Corner, E-Khata Villa Plot, Sri Sai Krishna Villas, Hassan-Mangaluru Road, Lakkenahalli, Bengaluru.Rs. 4500/- psft. (slightly negotiable)Genuine buyers only Contact: 9480217325

Sahakarnagar

SAHAKARANAGAR, 40X60 Feet West Facing, Excellent Location BDA Approved For Sale Call: 9341260828, 9980018828

Hegganahalli

2SITES SALE 80ftx100ft In Hegganahalli Cross Bangalore-91 A&E Katha Borewell Brick wall Fenced:9900287834/ 9448377834

Tumkur

10 GUNTAS DC Converted Near Bustand and 11.75 Guntas DC Converted Plot Near Police Station For Sale in Gubbi Town: 9880419865

Mysore

MYSORE BDA (MUDA) Site Sale, Dattagalli 3rd Stage 823 Sqft, No.55 East- Corner. 9845729728.

Srirampura

SALE 30X100 site, 1st cross, North facing, Site, Single owner, 2 mins-metro-mantri mall, 17000/sqft PH 9739732433

DH DECCAN HERALD Classifieds More value, more impact | ప్రజావాణి

REAL ESTATE

BOOK YOUR REAL ESTATE ADS IN DH ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITY ON SATURDAY + SUNDAY

@ 2481/-*

FOR 15 WORDS

www.dhclassifieds.com

BOOK NOW

Book your ad with us now! For more details contact:

+91 9845114560| +91 9886213331

+91 9731810277 | +91 9900428036 | 080-45557163/164

*Conditions apply

DH DECCAN HERALD Classifieds More value, more impact | ప్రజావాణి

RECRUITMENT

BOOK YOUR JOB ADS IN DH ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITY ON WEDNESDAY + SUNDAY

@ 825/-*

PER SQCM

SINGLE / DOUBLE / MULTIPLE COLUMN

www.dhclassifieds.com

BOOK NOW

For more details contact:

+91 9845114560 | +91 9900428036

+91 9731810277 | +91 9886213331

080- 45557163/164

* Conditions apply

More value, more impact

Classifieds

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Sites

Vishweshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 BDA Sites VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Contact: 82173 92686

"VISVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 6th Block 40x60 South facing Site for sale Good Location Genuine Buyers Contact: 9845500019/ 7019314962"

SALE, 5TH, 6th Block, 40X60, 30X40 and Three/ Four BHK Duplex House, RUDRAPPA: 9035334418, 9141326819

"VISHVESWARAIAH LAYOUT 1st-Block 4x60 East facing Site for sale. Call: 9071098870/ 9886294610 (BROKERS EXECUSE)"

SMVL 7TH Block, 40×60 Site, DC Conversion E Katha, North, Byregowda Layout, Near Kings Club: 9980433004

BDA-SITE FOR-SALE @ Sir. M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout 30x40 Contact: 6363496142

40X60 NORTH Facing site, SMV 5th block, DC converted, BBMP A & E Khata. Close to proposed Metro phase 3. Contact: 9900266984

'DIRECT OWNER' 30x40 North Facing Vishveswaraiah Layout 4th Block, Full Development Area: 8496030007/ 8310885235

House

Rajajinagar

RAJAJINAGAR 1ST Block, Near Metro Station, 40x60 4,Bedroom Duplex House, Sale Good Location: 9980501366

Vishweshwariah Layout

"30X40 BDA ONE/TWO BHK, FIVE RENTAL INCOME HOUSE SALE, 5TH BLOCK VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT- 9845143579"

Flat

Nagarabhavi

FLATS FOR-SALE @ Nagarabhavi Chandra Layout 2 & 3BHK Ready to Move In Good Location Call:9538472420 9845066608

Commerical

Anjanapura

ANJANAPURA 8TH Block 80'Road Commercial 50x80 East 7,20,00,000/- Residential 8th Block 40x60 West, 2,55,00,000/- 9845307497.

Basaweshwaranagar

BASAVESHWAR NAGAR 100 Feet Road Commercial 40X60 BDA Property For Sale Call: 9341260828 9980018828

Mysore

COMMERCIAL LAND FOR SALE
52,272 sqft/ 1.08 Acres
Rs.1250/- per sqft
10 Km from Palace,
Surrounded by Layouts
SUITABLE FOR
Layout, Hospital, Hotels, Lodge, Villa House, Choultry, Farm House, HD Kote Main Road Mysore.
Ganishka Properties Buy/Sell
Contact: +91 97397 03467

Agricultural Land Converted

Bangalore South

SOUTH BANGALORE 95acre Land for Sale yellowzone, City Limit (Layout, farm Land, Multiple Development) 7619444766

Agricultural Land

Mysore

MYSORE NANJANGUDU 5acre and 10acre Land For Immediate Sale 25 Lakhs only Per Acre: 7619444766

Commercial Building

Sarjapur Road

COMMERCIAL BUILDING for sale. Sarjapur road, Kasavanahalli. G+5. Current income 5 lacs. 10 Cr | Slightly negotiable. contact: 7795719141

Commercial Land

Bangalore North

HEGADENAGARA 100 FEET MAIN ROAD, Bangalore North, Prime Location 35,500 Sqft. COMMERCIAL LAND SALE. 16,000/-.Sqft. Call: 9008418631.

Industrial & Factory

Magadi Road

FOR SALE Industrial Building off Magadi road North Facing, 30 Ft Road, Land: 8,000 Sqft, Built up- 16000 Sqft, Power: 200KvA. Contact: 9035609555

Tumkur Road

SALE 25 to 30 Acres Warehouse Converted Land. Also 10/ 12 acres Industrial Land. 9141326819

Residential/ Commercial

Multiple Locations

TENENTED, GETTING 1% Rental Income Commercial, Residential, PG Building SALE All Location, Price:2.5cr. above. 9980577227.

REAL ESTATE BUYING

Sites

Anjanapura

WANTED BDA Site Anjanapura, Banashankari 6th Stage, Vishweshwaraiah layout & any BDA Katha & Mysore MUDA Sites, immediate settlement. genuine Sellers Contact: 9902038118, 9449060605

Banashankari

BDA-SITES WANTED @ BSK 6th Stage all Blk Vishweshwaraiah Lyt Kempegowda Lyt 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Call:9845555666

Multiple Locations

WANTED BDA Sites Anjanapura-Arkavathi, Banashankari 6th stage, Vishweswaraiah, Kempegowda, Dr. Shivaramkaranth Layout. Contact: Sapthagiri "(Opposite BDA Head Office) "9036360366.

Vishweshwariah Layout

'BDA SITE SALE '30X40 SOUTH FACING SMV 7th Block MUDDINAPALYA @1.73Cr Contact: 9108133156

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Villas/Bunglows

FOR RENT
Independent Bungalow 4000 sqft 4 BHK G+1at
Kumara Krupa Rd
HIGH GROUND with all facilities 3 car parking servant room, garden contact +919448129770

Commercial

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT at Geddanahalli New Airport Road Banglore 560077 1, 2 & 3 Floor suitable for Restaurant, spa, GYM, office space & Any commercial Purpose. Lift service, 20KV power supply is Available contact : 9066623347 9066489666

350 SFT 1st Floor Office Space, attached Toilet. Jayanagar 5th Block, Near Metro. Sharavanan 9787859951

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

EPOXY GROUTING for bathroom & balconies. Heat reflecting coating for terraces. Contact Roof & Walls, Bangalore. 9845987989

MATRIMONIAL

Brides Wanted

Hindu

BRIDE WANTED
Bride Required for aged 30 years, born 1995,
Height:- 5'.7"
Qualification:- BBA/ MBA
Job:- IT
Annual Income:- 7 Lakhs
Father:- Opted VRS from Air India
Monther:- Home Maker
Sibling:- 1 Sister Working Sister Working in Air India Trivandrum International Airport
Looking for Well - Educated (Graduate) good looking, working, Malayalee or Tamilian Girl.
Contact:-
93428 48984, 92434 30632

Bride Required Others

WANTED BRIDE
36 Year Well settled Software Architect Looking Bride for Marriage First preference Madiwala, No Caste Objection
Contact :
99161 67699
Bangalore

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Cook

BANGALORE TIFFIN Items 'THINDU' Master Cooks required at Chennai. Food & Accommodation provided. Contact:- 9080166615

Engg/ Production Technical

WANTED
CIVIL ENGINEER
Required for KCOE&I Project at Dabaspet with 3 / 5 years experience in project / site works.
CAR DRIVER-CUM-OFFICE ASSISTANT
required for KASSIA. Candidates should have minimum qualification of PUC and possess own two wheeler.
Interested candidates may send their resume in a sealed cover to KASSIA, # 2/106, 17th Cross, Magadi Chord Road, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040 within 7 days.

WANTED SITE Engineers Qualifcation DIPLOMA or BE. Salary fresher 20,000/- Experienced- 25,000/- Mobile: 9611712549/ 9019157733

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

Manager

TRANSPORT COMPANY requires Experienced person independently manage Bangalore branch business and operation. Please contact: 9035178911.

General

WANTED: MEDICAL MBBS Doctors, MSW, Staff Nurses, B.Sc Laboratory, Technicians. Contact: 9448465835, 9901665601

Teachers/ Professors

ST.PHILOMENA SCHOOL and PU COLLEGE
Byalakere, Yelahanka, Bengaluru
9480091189/ 9845036582
stphilomenas118@gmail.com
Requires experienced & Trained TEACHERS for
NURSERY NTT & MTT
HIGH SCHOOL All subjects (M.Sc. B.Ed/ MA B.Ed.)
COLLEGE Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer, Accountancy & Business Studies (M.Sc. B.Ed. / M.Com)

HOLY ANGEL'S High School, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560104. Phone: 23404465/23202042 holyangels.highschoolrpclayout@gmail.com Requires Experienced Trained Teachers for the Academic year 2026-27 for Nursery, Primary, High-School, Computer Teacher, Music Teacher & PE Teacher.STATE & ICSE. Qualification: B.A./B.Sc.,B.Ed/ M.A./ M.Sc.,M.Ed. NTT, CPEd. Only English Medium Candidates need to apply

VIDYA VAHINI SCHOOL, Affiliated to CBSE, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore. REQUIRES: Candidates for GRADE 7 to 10 (All subjects). Interested candidates forward your resume to what'sapp number- 9686282423. For the school to contact. Walk-interview.

Hospital & Medical Jobs

WANTED HR (5+Years) & MARKETING EXECUTIVES (2+Years) Hospital Experience only. MAHARAJA AGRASEN HOSPITAL Bengaluru-70 Mobile- 9513362681 (9am-to-6pm) E-mail: ceo.mahb@gmail.com

Wanted

WANTED DIPLOMA in Mechanical Electrical Engineering, Job: LAB INSTRUCTOR. Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore. Contact: 8147011054.

CONNECT
Exhibition & Sale
Karnataka's Grandest & BIGGEST
Mega Saree Festival
Lowest Price Guaranteed Direct Weaver's Prices
Seere Utsava
SULAKSHMI SILKS
50,000+Sarees
10,000+Designs
1000+Varieties
Pure Mysore Silk, Kanjeevaram, Patola, Banaras, Uppada Paihani, Chanderi, Gadwal, Ilkal, Pochampally, Bhagalpur, Ikat Jamdhani, Muga, Crepe, Gajji Bandhani, Arni, Cotton Classics, Bangalore Silk & More
AN EXCLUSIVE SHOWCASE OF INDIA'S FINEST HANDWOVEN SAREES
Special Honour Chief Guest: Kushee Ravi (Actress)
Special Honour Chief Guest: Suraj Singh (Actor)
Special Honour Chief Guest: Rashika Shetty (Actress)
Special Honour Chief Guest: Namratha Gowda (Actress)
SIGNATURE SILK SAREE COLLECTIONS
24th Jan to 1st Feb 2026 | 11 AM to 9 PM
Hotel Lalith Ashok, Bangalore
99727 18898 | 96631 27606
93531 38343 | 98863 06643

REQUIRED JUNIOR ADVOCATES 'DNM Associates' Required having Experience of TWO TO THREE years (2-3) Fluency in Languages, hardworking and interested in profession. Both trial and High Court work. Call 9845081411/ 9632671467 Email dnmanjunathadvocate@gmail.com

WANTED: YOUNG dedicated North Indian male assistant for old man in Gokarna. Minimum High School. Monthly Salary 20,000 to 30,000 depending on experience. Please call 9810896996, 9319188313 or contact Moti Lal Gupta, Room 217 Shrinivas Hotel, Hampankatta Mangalore.

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Tanuja** D/o Srinivas, residing at No. 63/1, 2nd Cross, SBI Staff Colony, HSBC Layout, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru 560079, have changed my name to **TANUJA S** vide affidavit dated 28-01-2026 before notary Vanajakshi R, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **TANUJA S** only

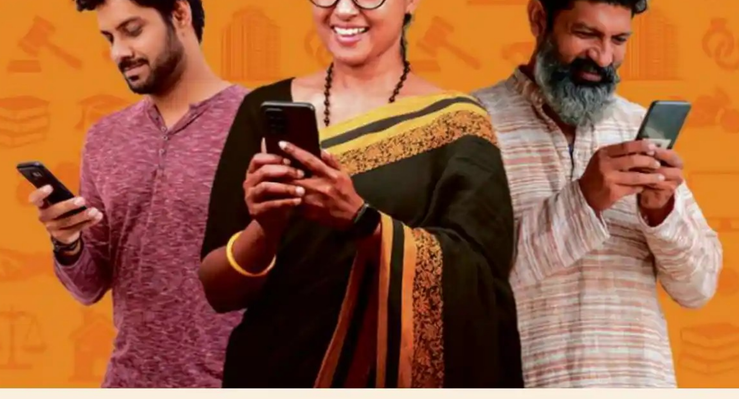
CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Prashanth,** Son of Ravindra Malleshappa Desai, residing at No. 1445, Kishan House, 17th Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-78 have changed my name to **PRASHANTH RAVINDRA DESAI** vide Affidavit dated 29-01-2026, sworn before Notary L. Puttaraju, Bengaluru.

Lost

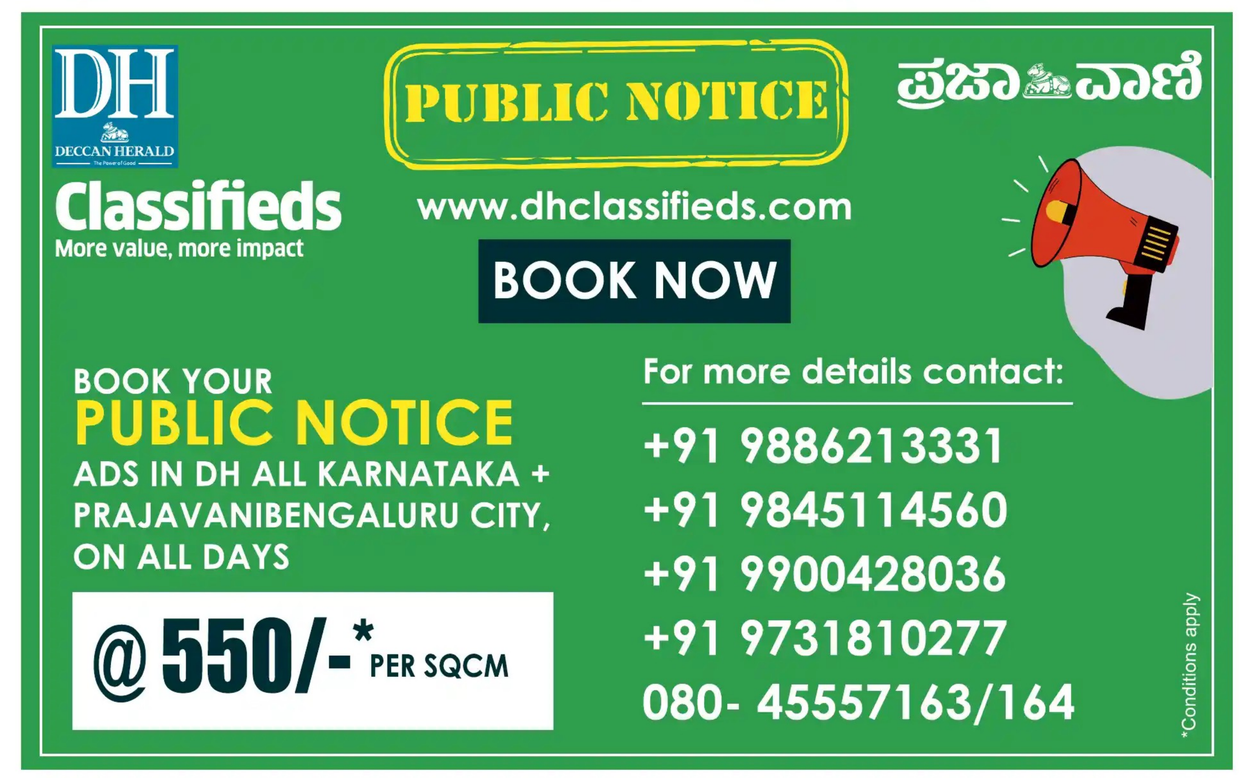
DOCUMENT LOST
I, **Ismail Jabiulla** Residing at Mehaboob Nagara, 22nd Ward, Vijayapura Town, Devanahalli Tq, have Lost my Original **Sale Deed/ House Registration Paper, Document No/ Identification: 979/92-93 V 1415** Date: 09/09/2024 while in transit. If found Please **Contact: 7676777769**

EDUCATION To Place your Classified Ads Contact: 9845114560

DH DECCAN HERALD | ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
https://dhclassifieds.com
Book your Ad in 4 Easy Steps --Select Category-- Book ad
1 Select Category 2 Publication & Date 3 Compose Your Ad 4 Payment



Buy or Sell
anytime, anywhere in just 4 clicks.
Buy, sell, rent, or recruit with ease! Need to find a service, buy products, sell your property, or connect with the right candidate?
Find buyers, services, or talent by placing your classified ads in Karnataka's most trusted newspapers Deccan Herald & Prajavani —your one-stop platform to connect with the right audience across the state.
• Instant ad booking & easy browsing
• Buy & Sell from anywhere, at any time
• Simple, secure, and hassle-free process
• Reach the right audience across Karnataka
Book Now.
Scan the QR code & grab the best deal today!



ARVIND PROPERTIES

Move in for an extraordinary LIFESTYLE in the

HEART OF NATURE

RERA NO. PRM/KA/RERA/1250/307/PR/280324/006755

50 Acres Project | **900** Premium Plots

Mr. M.K. Ashok

APARTMENT-LIVING FACILITIES
Within a plotted development

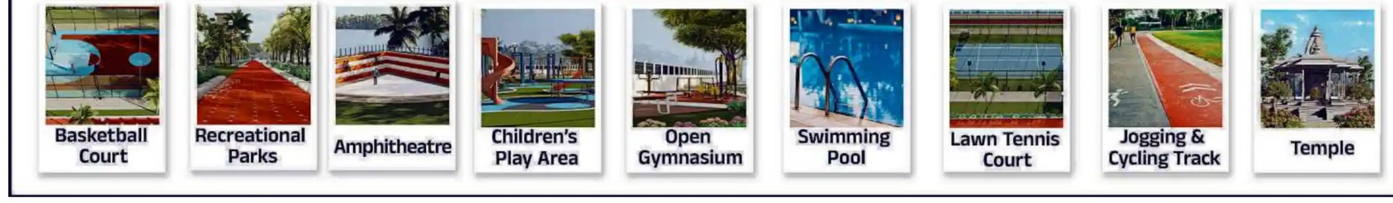
with an iconic
CLUB HOUSE - 50,000 sqft (G+4)
that redefines comfort and class.

TUMKUR METRO EXPANSION

Makali – Dasanapura – Nelamangala – Weaver Colony – Nelamangala Visveswara Pura – Nelamangala Tollgate – Boodihal – T. Begur – Thippagondana halli – Kulavanahalli – Mahimapura – Bildankote – Somapura Industrial Area – Dabaspet – Nallayana palya – Chikkahalli – Hirehalli Industrial Area – Panditana halli – Kyatsandra Bypass – Kyatsandra – SIT (Siddhartha College) – Tumakuru Bus Stand – TUDA Layout – Naganna Palya – Sira Gate (proposed).

YOUR PLOT JUST MINUTES FROM THE UPCOMING METRO

WORLD-CLASS AMENITIES



Nelamangala
Sondekoppa Road

99986 08666

www.arvindproperties.com